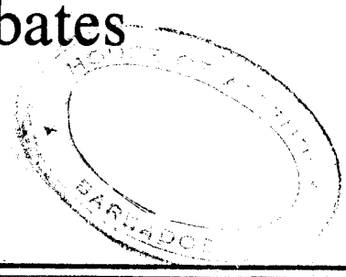
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th July, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock (noon) today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker);* Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works);* Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education);* Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries);* Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees);* Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development).*

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meetings of 30th June and 7th July have been duly circulated, and unless I hear any objection, they will be deemed to be confirmed.

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of those two meetings duly to have been confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report by Dr. Richard M. Jackson on Local Government in Barbados.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of $2,400 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part I Current as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1964-65 No. 14 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of $27 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part 1 Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1964-65 No. 15 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of $1,400 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part 1 Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1964-65 No. 16 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice was given today.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I am today in receipt of a letter of this day's date from the Chaplain which reads as follows:-

"His Honour the Speaker,
House of Assembly,
Bridgetown.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As I am under the doctor's care, Dr. S. A. E. Kinch, I am asking for six months' leave of absence from my duties as Chaplain of the House of Assembly with effect from next Tuesday, 21st July, 1964.

I hope that the Honourable House will grant me this favour.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Samuel A. E. Coleman."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that strictly speaking, the Chaplain is Mr. Speaker's Chaplain, and Your Honour is entitled to grant this leave without reference to the House; but I have no hesitation in saying that I am sure Your Honour would wish the House to agree to the suggestion that leave be granted to the Chaplain for six months, and I now formally beg to move that the Chaplain be accorded six months' leave of absence as from Tuesday, 21st July, 1964.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

12.25 p.m.

REV. F. A. CAYLESS TO ACT CHAPLAIN

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in the place of the Chaplain, I now beg to move that Rev. F. A. Cayless, Rector of St. George's Church be appointed to act as Chaplain for six months with effect from 21st July, 1964.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THANKS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been requested by the Chaplain Rev. S. A. E. Coleman, to express his personal thanks to hon. members in their concurrence in granting him leave.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply be the first Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1964-65, No. 12

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out two weeks ago, the overall cost of the new Hospital is estimated at $9.4 million. Up to the 31st March, 1964, the amount actually spent was $7,739,728. In this year's estimates, the provision of $1,018,000 was voted and two weeks ago, a supplementary estimate was brought into this Chamber for $415,884 and now, the sum of $141,401 is before the Chamber in connection with the construction of the New Hospital. I may point out at this stage, that this is not the final bite because provision has got to be made for a proper Nursing school, and for improvements to the Nurses' quarters. A Committee is now working on these plans, and, in due course, the necessary supplementary provision would be introduced into the Legislature for carrying out these works.

Now, Sir, this supplementary provision, which we are dealing with today, is necessary in order to meet and retain the services of resident staff to take care of the final accounts, receiving equipment and the disposal of left over stores. It is true that the Hospital is virtually completed, but there are accounts to be dealt with and things will be coming in to the Hospital for settlement; therefore, the Accountant is necessary to have staff to take care of these accounts.

It will be also necessary to have the Resident Architect and other staff to see that the Hospital gets off to a good start. Then, provision has also to be made to meet additional expenses in connection with the extension of the contract of the Resident Engineer.

Another aspect of it is to meet the excess of $40,411 on the estimate for lifts. In the original estimate, the sum of $142,000 was estimated for this purpose by the Consultant Engineers. In this Resolution there is also provision of necessity to meet the cost of extra work in connection with the sewerage disposal and the jetty which was estimated at $26,800. Then, there is the question of return passages and vacation leave for the officers on contract. Sir, I am sure that hon. members will like to have a breakdown of this expenditure, and I can let them have it in detail.

Item 1, is reduced staff for the period 1st June to the 31st December 1964. I have already explained that it is absolutely necessary to keep this reduced staff if the Hospital is to function satisfactorily. This reduced staff is to see that everything is well done and the Hospital gets off to a good start. That costs $15,704.

12.35 p.m.

Item 2 deals with Contract Officers' Accumulated Vacation Leave from and to the various dates and that amounts to $8,640.65. There has been an additional cost in the price of cement. Hon. members will remember that about two years ago there was an extension of the handling charges to the tune of $4.80 per ton. That has resulted in an increase in the price of cement of approximately 20 cents a bag. It is true that the cement was bought on contract, but a proviso in the Agreement was that in all of these unforeseen increases, they would have to be met by the Government; hence the amount of $35,000 to meet the additional cost of cement. There has also been an additional cost in the provision of the sewage disposal unit. The original estimate was $65,000. That is when it was planned to throw the sewage in the Constitution Swamp by the last Government. (A MEMBER: Shame!) As a matter of fact, the actual amount spent on sewage disposal for the Hospital is $137,869.05. This increase was necessary because this Government felt that the health of the community was very important.

I pointed out during the last two weeks that we may have economic growth and we may have political development; but social and health development must come hand in hand with these things. Inasmuch as the policy of this Government is to promote development both socially and in the way of health, we thought it best, in the interest of our community, to have the sewage carried one thousand feet out to sea. If we had carried out the plan of the last Government to dump the sewage into the Constitution Swamp we would have been in danger of having this island faced with a serious epidemic. It is true that we were criticised because we thought that, instead of throwing the sewage into the Constitution Swamp, we should have it canalised. It is there for every one to see. Constitution Road and River road are two pleasant places which we can pass. These places would have been uninhabitable if these improvements were not carried out and if the sewage from the Hospital had been thrown, as was planned by the last Government, into the Constitution Swamp. I am sure that hon. members will have no grouse about the additional expenditure when we consider the fact that the health of the community means a lot. The health of the community is the life of the community. Savings were effected on other items, and therefore the supplementary vote for which we are asking today is to offset the additional expenditure in the provision of the jetty and the extension of the sewage lines out to sea. That supplementary vote is $22,600. The other increased expenditure was met through savings on other items.

Now there is also the provision of $3,797.08 which is made up from the fact that the contract of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer was extended to the 15th June, and there is also the provision of $450 to pay for the rental of a house. That, as I say, is due to the extension of the contract of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer. Included in this supplementary provision is $5,760 and that is for the purpose of paying the passages for three contract officers; these passages are at the rate of $1,920.00 each. Incidentals amount to $1,000 which include railway fares and so on. There is retrospective allowances to be paid to the construction engineers and these allowances amount to $4,400 Retrospective allowances paid to the Superintendent of Works amount to $2,400. There was no provision in the original estimate for the installation of telephones. The cost of this work is $1,238. That is just for the installation of the telephones, and not for the cost of the telephones themselves.

Mr. Chairman, another big item is for the provision of an additional $40,411 for the lifts. The Consulting Engineers had estimated the cost of these lifts at $141,600. When the Crown Agents were asked to advertise for tenders for the installation of these lifts for this new Hospital, the lowest tender received was $182,011. This resulted in an increase of $109,531. Again, Sir, just as the amount which was actually spent on the provision of a proper sewage disposal system was reduced by savings on other constructions at the Hospital, this amount of $109,531 was also reduced so that we are now asked to supplement this item by the amount of $40,411.
12.45 p.m.

Now the Resident Architect and the Accountant who hold substantive posts in the Civil Service will be going on leave; the Resident Architect on 20th July, 1964, and the Accountant on 16th July, 1964, and they will resume their normal duties at the expiration of their leave which is for six months. It has been considered necessary to pay these officers going on leave at the rate at which they were being paid when they worked on the construction of the Hospital, as against their substantive salaries in their Civil Service appointments. It is considered necessary to treat the Assistant Accountant and the Storekeeper similarly, and provision is being made for a Stenographer from June to August at the rate of $144 a month, and from September to December at the rate of $150 a month amounting to $1,032.

The question of the salary of the Resident Architect and the Accountant during the time that they will be on leave was raised with the Establishment Branch of the Ministry of Finance and also with the Chief Personnel Office, and it was decided that it was correct to pay both officers at the rate at which they are now being employed as against the rate they were paid in their substantive posts, because this vacation leave is as a result of the work which they have been doing in the past years at the new Hospital.

Now vacation leave is also due to the Construction Engineer whose leave is for 138 days at $808 a month, and this amounts to $3,418.68. The Mechanical and Electrical Engineer is due leave of 16 days at $809 per month which amounts to $3,196.59. The Superintendent of Works is due leave of 105 days at $592.33 per month and that amounts to $2,025.38. So leave passages for these three officers amount to $8,640.65. These are the Contract Officers.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have given a complete breakdown of what is asked for in this supplementary provision for $141,401.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. MILLER: Before the question is put, Sir, I should like to comment on the information set out in the Addendum for this sum of $141,401. Apparently it has been the decision of the Minister in his presentation to give the House details re this expenditure for the Hospital of $141,401. It is usual that with a sum like this you always seek to give details, and no matter what argument the Minister would attempt to give, at least eight members are out of the House at the moment for a number of reasons, and it is to some extent unfair to members who are not present and in their places at the moment, and it is wrong to narrow the Addendum down to a line and a half with no details other than that the sum of $141,401 is required to meet expenditure in order to complete the construction of the new hospital project. For instance, I entered the Chamber rather late and I think the Minister must have been at least half way, but I am told by my colleague that in some statement the Minister said it was the idea of the last Government that the sewage should go into the Constitution Swamp. I do not think that anybody with a rational sense of understanding would think that any Government would consider this possible. It is good engineering, sanitary practice all over the world to use a series of septic tanks, and the flow of liquid released from these tanks would go into the stream. As a matter of fact, I think on the files we had a number of discussions with Canadian experts on this, and we were told that in Canada where there was such a sewage unit with similar equipment being used, the manager requested the members of the population to drink a glass of water from the sewage system to see whether they could tell that the water came through septic tanks. As a matter of fact, what I do remember is that due to the length of the pipe next to the Eye Ward, we had decided to join this up with the sewage arrangement and ground pump; it is foolish to imagine that the sewage from the Hospital would be released into the Constitution Swamp. Imagine a Minister with a sense of responsibility saying that at some time it was decided that the sewage from this colossal Hospital would be released in the swamp!

I remember, Sir, that this was discussed at length, and we were told by the experts that the water coming from the sewage system could be drunk as against the water running down the Constitution Swamp. It is nearly three years now that these details were discussed, and it would be hard for me to remember what was the decision; but I do not think that anybody in his senses would find it possible to think that the sewage from a 500 bed hospital would be released in the City.
12.55 p.m.

I am wondering if the Hon. Minister will prefer letting us know now rather than waiting until the end. The Hon. Minister will have had minutes of the details and a number of documents on this. This amount which you have now sent to us is a tremendous sum to be added to the cost of building the Hospital. As I have said, Sir, the Hon. Minister did attempt to read out the things which this amount is for, but it is not fair to those eight members who came in after. This is contrary to practice. They should have been set out and then one would be able to think why this should be. You have now put members of the House to the task of asking you to repeat, and my conscience would not have me asking you to repeat. It would be fair and decent to have set them out.

However, Sir, you can say, without having to say whether it is the last Government or the present, if you consider the possibility of your sewerage system. Can you very well imagine what is going to pass through those six-inch or ten-inch pipes? Can you very well imagine what wash-downs are going to pass through there on mornings before anything else? I am wondering if the hon. member would respect us by giving us a reply.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Hon. Minister will favour me with further remarks on this.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering when we are going to be spared from the inflictions of the hon. junior member for St. George. If eight members were not in the House, as he said, it does not permit him to get up today and give us this long eye-wash statement with which we have been afflicted. The Hon. Minister did what should be done. If the hon. junior member for St. George went into Parliament long enough and knows what is an Addendum, he would know that the Hon. Minister did what should be done. The hon. junior member for St. George made a long speech and talked about writing it in the Addendum. If you had written all this in the Addendum, you will have to write a Bible.

Some of the hon. member's colleagues did not in the past – although I do not want to refer to them – give us any information other than what was in the Addendum to a Resolution, but the Hon. Minister of Health gave what we required to receive. He told us why they are spending this money. It was not put in the Addendum, but he gave us in his statement; and now we are hearing from the hon. junior member for St. George, all this nonsense about eight members not being in their place and for that reason there is all this criticism.

What is an Addendum? An Addendum is only a precis Imagine, your setting out to write an Addendum and you include all these things. At one stage when we criticised the past Government for stupidity, the hon. member put his hand in the air. This is yet another speech by the hon. member. He takes credit for the building of the Hospital. He talks of it as if it is some baby of his and as if he had pulled

something out of his pocket. He talks of the Hospital as if it is something new. Hospitals are built all over the world. Some are much larger than this. If you go to Nigeria, you will see some of the biggest hospitals. This is not the first hospital which was being built.

The Hon. Minister of Health gave information on this Resolution and it is uncharitable for the hon. junior member for St. George to walk in the House, late, as he did, with the illogical statement that eight members were not in the House. The paucity of members present on this side when the Resolution was being introduced shows that they were not opposed to the Resolution. If they were opposed to it, they would have come in here at an earlier time.

The Hon. Minister gave lengthy information on this matter in my view. This is what prevents some Ministers sometimes from coming in and giving information because it seems that if a Minister who gives adequate information is chided for that, I think what the Hon. Minister of Health did today was very noble because he gave us a full explanation of what was being done. And the hon. junior member for St. George with his unsavoury epithets in describing people got up and talked a lot of nonsense! What the hon. member must be prepared to face is that the hon. members on the other side are the Government and he is not a member of the Government. I think it is most uncharitable and unkind to come to the House and speak about embarrassment when the Hon. Minister gave a full explanation before that hon. member entered the House, and when he entered it, he found the Hon. Minister speaking on it. The fact that the Hon. Minister was speaking on it up to one o'clock, and the House commenced just after noon and this is the only Resolution dealt with, by a mathematical deduction, you would realise what full information the Hon. Minister gave. Despite all that, are you going to come here and talk of the Addendum not fully explanatory? The Hon. Minister has done more than what any Addendum could do. The Hon. Minister has given us all the information — information which would fill an Addendum forty-nine times. Imagine your asking a Permanent Secretary to write an Addendum to satisfy a House! If you did that, you would come to the conclusion that members of the House want to operate in remote control. An Addendum is courtesy to you. It is to give you some idea of what the Resolution is all about, but there is nothing to say that you have to write an Addendum to a Resolution. What is important, so far as the Minister is concerned, is that he deals with the Resolution, no matter what the Addendum sets out. A Minister is expected to introduce a Resolution. I have been in here long enough to hear the former Minister of Health, the hon. junior member for St. George, come in here and do nothing else in the introduction of a Resolution but to read the Addendum. No explanation was given; all he said was that the Addendum speaks for itself.
1.05 p.m.

The Addendum speaks for itself; therefore, the hon. member is asking us to have the House reduced to Addenda. That is all you need, and so the Ministers need not speak. I think that what was said was unfair and uncharitable to the Hon. Minister. I think it is time that some hon. members be prepared to halt this sort of unnecessary sniping at people when there is absolutely no justification for it.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Minister replies, I should like to say this. We have grown accustomed to all of this bamboozling by the hon. senior member for St. Peter. Last week he was in the role of Premier and Minister of Finance with all the items of financial policy, but now today he is the Minister for Health. How dare him to say that what I said was stupidity? What on earth could have fallen out of my lips which the hon. member could regard as stupidity? All of these hackneyed statements are made by the hon. member from morning until night and he is defending the Government all the time. He says that he is independent of any Government, but when it suits him he defends the Government. Not one single point was made by the hon. member on the Resolution which is before the House. He has had the satisfaction of one soul making use of its voice. Next time the hon. member will be the Minister of Education and then the Minister of Communications and Works. It is a pity that we did not consolidate all of these Ministries and let the hon. member become Minister for everything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to realise that there is somebody in the Chair. The hon. member is not addressing the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: Do you mean, Sir, that I am not looking at you? I am sorry, Sir, I will focus my attention on you. It does not matter, but I have a simple right. Nearly every Tuesday there have been Resolutions passed in here without any debate because the purpose of those Resolutions was made clear in the Addenda, and one did not have to ask any questions. However, Sir, I am not alone today in saying that the information supplied in the Addendum to this Resolution is insufficient. You should not ask us to give a release from the Treasury for the completion of the Hospital and fail to give us the necessary information and thereby place us in the position of having to ask for that information. Probably if there had been a breakdown of four or five lines in the Addendum to this Resolution one would not have to ask for any information. Now you have this Pope, this walking encyclopaedia, who is using a lot of hackneyed statements which represent the attempt of one individual to handle seven or eight Ministries. It is a pity that the hon. member was not given the Mediterranean and the Pacific Portfolios, and we would listen to him on every single Tuesday. We have passed Resolutions without debate, and now we are told what we should say and what we should not say and what the last Government has done. Mr. Chairman, it is reported to me by my colleague that the Hon. Minister of Health said that the sewage from the Hospital was to be placed into the Constitution Swamp. That is what I have been told and I have the right to repeat it and to ask if that is so. Nobody would consider the possibility of turning the sewage into the Constitution Swamp. I have been elected here with the same right as anybody else, and every moment the hon. senior member for St. Peter can tell me that I am stupid and foolish when nobody has displayed more folly in here than the hon. member himself; and he knows that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that is connection with the Resolution dealing with the Hospital?

Mr. MILLER: Yes, Sir, that is in the Hospital project.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see it here.

Mr. MILLER: You just read between the lines. All I am saying is that we could have saved all of this debate and argument. Probably next Tuesday the hon. senior member for St. Peter will take over the responsibility from the Minister of Education. I do not know what is happening with the Ministry of Agriculture, but the hon. senior member for St. Peter has taken over the other Ministries. We have been accustomed to all of this. I have no reason for criticising anybody, but I want to save the hon. member the embarrassment of having to answer questions over and over again.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind using hackneyed phrases but I do not believe that I am the manufacturer of words. The only thing I have learned is English. I do not think that anybody could be original enough as to say that we invented it. It was going on long before I was born, and therefore it existed before I came into this world. I am not afraid of what has been said before and I do not want to be a political clown. If I am going to become the laughing-stock of people, I am not going to be that. When the hon. member was speaking here I sat and listened to him and watched all of his clownish behaviour. I would not interrupt him. If ignorance is a quality which the hon. member imbibes, he can have it for as many years as he is old. The hon. member uses his tamarind tree argument as if I am the Minister. I have the right to be a Minister to anybody. My business is to deal with public affairs and I make a study of them. When the hon. member exhibits ignorance by saying that what comes from his mouth I cannot correct, only a monumental idiot could say that. How could anybody be so conceited as to say that what comes from his mouth I would not be able to correct it? It is like the

idiots many years ago who asked what good could come out of Nazareth. *(Laughter).*

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. George has criticised the Addendum to this Resolution. I think that the hon. senior member for St. Peter has clearly defined what an Addendum is. You do not have to muddle together ten or twelve pages in an Addendum once you understand what an Addendum is. I want the hon. junior member for St. George to understand that we are quite conscious of our responsibilities and we know what our duties are and we are going to perform them. It is not the duty of the Hon. Minister to write out the information in an Addendum, which information he could give to the House. The Addendum does not form any part of the Resolution. It is the duty of the Minister to explain what he has to explain to the House in full detail and say what he is asking the House to do on behalf of the people of Barbados, or on behalf of the hon. member's community or the representation of his portfolio.
1.15 p.m.

If I had written out the statement I made here this afternoon in an Addendum, the taxpayers' money would have been wasted, because one would have to employ more Civil Servants to do it and more typists, and there would be a waste of paper. All of this would entail increased expenditure from the Treasury of this island and increased expenditure on the taxpayers of the country, and only people with the intelligence of the hon. junior member for St. George would think of fleecing the community instead of doing the job which the community has put him here to do. The community has placed me here to explain and expound to the House what I am asking it to do on behalf of the people of Barbados, and I am conscious of that. I do not have to waste time writing up an Addendum of about ten pages. I want the hon. junior member for St. George to understand that it is my duty to explain the Resolution and that is what I have done. I came here with a Resolution for $415,884 with an Addendum which was hardly longer than this and explained what it was for. The only member of the Legislature who did ask a question was the same hon. junior member for St. George, who was so ashamed at what was being said that he had to say something, and he got up and asked what it cost to equip the Operating Theatre in the Maternity Section. He mentioned nothing about the Addendum, and he was so satisfied I thought that for a mammoth sum of $415,884 there would have been a big debate but because of the fact that it was well explained, hon. members understood and appreciated what was done; and the only person to get up and ask a stupid question was the hon. junior member for St. George. Today he had absolutely nothing to say on the Resolution because it was well explained.

Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member talked about eight members being absent, I would say that they were sent to the Legislature to represent the people and should be here at 12 o'clock when the House begins. The only way they can give people representation is by coming to the House. They cannot give representation by putting themselves in trouble with cane fire issues and being absent from the House for two months. If the hon. member wants to draw swords with me, I am not going into the gutter with him; but I am going to speak and represent the people where I think they should be represented, and in the way they expect to be represented, by me. On the question of sewage disposal, it is absolutely true that it was the plan of the then Government to throw the sewage into the Constitution Swamp. That is something that I want the hon. member to know.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order, I have been listening to the Hon. Minister and I would like him to read that passage from the files where the filth from this Institution would be thrown into the Constitution Swamp. This is untrue and I will want to say something further on this. Why should he want to say something untrue about the Hospital?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, is that a point of order? The hon. member has the right to speak afterwards. I want the hon. member to know that I read all my files before I came here, and I can retain what is in those files. If the hon. member wants the files read, he can wait until he has an opportunity; but he will not again have a chance to read those files.

Mr. MILLER: It is rather unfair, Sir, for the Minister to say that the filth from the Hospital would be sent down the Constitution Swamp, and I am asking to read that from the files.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. George cannot compel the Hon. Minister to read from the files, if he is not disposed to do so.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order, are you now telling me what I should say?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to tell you if you are going wrong.

Mr. MILLER: He made a statement and I am simply asking him to clarify it, because nobody on this side would believe that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The point I made is that I study my files before I come here. Why should I read the files through the inefficiency of any member of the last Government? I read them for the people of Barbados, and any information I give is on behalf of the people of Barbados. The hon. member was deprived of the opportunity of reading the files because of his incompetence. I am saying categorically, Mr. Chairman, that it was their plan to throw the sewage into the Constitution Swamp, and that is why, when we tried to improve the Constitution Swamp at our first meeting on 19th December, 1961, the hon. member jumped up to criticise and said that we were throwing away money on the Constitution Swamp. Let him go and look at the Constitution Swamp now! Can you ever remember people being willing to live in that area? They lived there because they could do no better, but now they are flocking back there by the dozens. The hon. member must remember when he speaks about eight people being absent, that the House was adjourned until today and it was the duty of the eight members to be here to do the people's business. I was satisfied to come to the Honourable House and give the amount of explanation which they should have. I think I have done my duty and my best to the community and the House, and under the circumstances I do not think the hon. member's argument is really valid. The hon. member had absolutely nothing to say on the Resolution, and out of a guise and to be able to say something, he got up and talked about the Addendum. That is the sort of nonsense which one is subject to every Tuesday when he comes into this Chamber.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you cannot take a vote when a member is on his feet, and I told you before that I would have something further to say.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. junior member for St. George sit?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was in here and it was his right to rise at any time after the Hon. Minister had spoken before Your Honour put the question. After you have put the question, there can be no further discussion.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you will remember that I asked a question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot remember nor am I supposed to remember either.

Mr. MILLER: You are Chairman of Committees.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, it is not a question....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the Hon. Leader of the House on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. George will kindly sit.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: It is not a question of whether Your Honour remembers or not. The point is that the Rules are precise on this point. The question has been put and there can be no further debate.

Mr. MILLER: I had asked your permission before, Mr. Chairman, and you are bound to remember because I did so on more than one occasion. I simply asked the Minister to state whether it is true that it was decided by the last Government that the sewage from this Hospital would be put in the Constitution River, and he declined to answer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. member speaking now?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: You must ask the Hon. Leader of the House to sit down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing before me.

Mr. MILLER: I told you before that I would probably have to ask a further question on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. junior member for St. George sit? You are completely out of order.

Mr. MILLER: I am not. I have sought your permission and I said that I would probably have something more to say. How can you tell me that I am out of order? Do you mean to attempt to stifle debate in parliament of this country because you control the majority? Do you mean that you are doing this because you have the majority and because you have the authority and the number of votes?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is quite out of order. You can make a motion to remove me from the Chair.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of $141,401 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to Your Honour's attention, and I am going to make a motion to the effect, that the conduct of the hon. junior member for St. George is reprehensible by his using vulgar language in this Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: That is not true, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member sat there accusing members of licking people's backs.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committess reported to me the passing of one Resolution in Committee and that completed his report.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am drawing to Your Honour's attention a matter which infringes the privileges and decencies of this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not taking cognizance of anything other than that which takes place when I am in the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, during the interregnum when the Hon. Chairman had just left the Chair and Your Honour was about to take the Chair, the conduct of the hon. junior member for St. George was reprehensible. You are the Speaker of this Chamber, and I am sure you could have heard the unsavoury remarks which were used by the hon. junior member for St. George. If you do not act now, I am saying that you are going to be sorry for the outcome of those happenings in this Chamber, because the hon. member has disrespected the Chair — and the Chair is not only when you are there.

The Chairman of Committess may not be aware of the Rules and not only did he allow the hon. member to speak although the motion had been put, but he allowed the hon. member to use the most undignified language and at the end, the hon. member sat in his seat and made use of vulgar language and then had the effrontery to say to Your Honour that he was not using vulgar language. He said that they are accustomed of licking people's backs and are not able to get anything for themselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for further discussion. Standing Order No. 35, "Decision of the Chair final" states:

"The Speaker in the House or the Chairman in Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively, and his decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion. Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order No. 20 (Manner of giving Notices), such a motion shall not require more than two days' notice."

No report was made by the Chairman of Committees on that matter.

On separate motions of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON in each case, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD ORDERLY AT GENERAL HOSPITAL

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: We will take the Reply to Question No. 7, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, it reads as follows:- To enquire of the Minister of Health:-

Is Government aware that one of the posts of Head Orderly at the General Hospital has been vacant for a period of over three years, and that the person appointed to act in that post over the same period has received no extra emoluments in respect of such acting appointment?

2. Will Government see to it that this situation be remedied without delay?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member made an error in connection with the enquiry. It is not the portfolio of the Hon. Minister of Health now, because that comes under the Head of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs; therefore, the reply would have to come from the Hon. Premier on whose behalf I ask to deal with it now.

The Reply is as follows:-

"There is no permanently vacant post of Head Orderly at the General Hospital. One of the substantive Orderlies is on secondment to the post of Secretary, Irrigation Board with effect from 1st May, 1961, and consequently no permanent appointment may be made to that post of Head Orderly. The other posts of Head Orderly are held by the substantive incumbents.

"Acting Allowances based on the difference between the substantive salary of the acting officer and the minimum salary of the post in which he is acting are normally payable, but the salary of the acting Head Orderly is above the minimum salary in the Head Orderly Scale; so no acting allowance is payable to him."

Mr. SEALEY: This seems to be an oversight.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is putting a supplementary question and I take it that he would proceed with that question.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I think this is an oversight somewhat. There are men who are acting at the Barbados General Hospital.
1.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member put it in this way? Is the Hon. Minister not aware that so-and-so....

Mr. SEALEY: Very well, Sir. Is the hon. member not aware of the fact that there are Orderlies acting in the post of Head Orderly at the General Hospital now for the past three years and they have not received any extra emoluments in respect of such acting appointments?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: That is not my information. My information is to the effect that only one of the substantive officers is on secondment leave to the Irrigation Board and the other post of Head Orderly is held by the substantive incumbent. In other words, all the other posts are filled by people who have been appointed to such posts. Nobody is acting.

Mr. SEALEY: Is the Hon. Leader of the House not aware of the fact that there are about four acting appointments at the General Hospital over the past three years? There is not only one acting appointment, but there are four of them at least.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Acting appointments in what category?

Mr. SEALEY: In the Orderly Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that the Hon. Minister cannot ask any questions. He may explain that the question is not clear and ask for further clarification.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I have replied, in answer to the question asked by the hon. member as to whether there are other Orderlies acting, that my information is "No". That is quite clear. There is only one who is acting and the other posts are held by substantive incumbents.

Mr. SEALEY: I would still like to know if the Hon. Leader of the House is really aware of what he speaking about. I am sure that there are acting appointments at the General Hospital, not only of Orderlies but in many other parts of the Hospital, for the past three years. If the hon. Minister does not know anything of that he should say so.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is to be assumed that the Minister is aware of what he is talking about.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: All I need to be aware of is the question which the hon. member has asked. From the Janitor to the Medical Superintendent, all the hon. member is asking about is the post of Head Orderly. My reply is to the effect that the post of Head Orderly is not vacant.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As hon. members are aware, the undertaking given by the Government for today's meeting is that we would dispose of the slight matter on the Order Paper under Government Business, and then hon. members will be free to indulge in their comments to their hearts' content in throwing brick bats at the Government relative to the Financial Statement of the Hon. Premier. It is now roughly 1.45 p.m. of the clock, and I am quite sure that hon. members who want to speak on the Financial Statement will be ready to do so by 2.30 p.m. of the clock. The Operator will be here at that time, probably, to see after the broadcast of hon. members' speeches — I mean the speeches of hon. members who have not yet spoken — and they will have the pleasure of speaking. I therefore beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2. 30 p.m. of the clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. of the clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

1.45 p.m.

On resumption:

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to draw Your Honour's attention to the fact that there is no quorum and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you for the suggestion. Let the Bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken and that Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HOUSE RESUMES DEBATE ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Mr. SPEAKER: When this Order was last discussed, the hon. senior member for St. Peter was the last speaker. I understand that the hon. senior member for St. Peter had concluded his speech. If there is any other hon. member who seeks to contribute to this debate, the moment is now opportune.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the time has now come for me to make a few points on this Financial Statement; but before doing so, Sir, I am drawing to your attention and that of the House the action of the Hon. Premier yearly; I have to say "yearly" because it was done last year also. The Hon. Premier walks into this House with a black box, more so than at any other time, reads out a Statement and does not return until the speeches are over. He does not wait to hear any points, criticisms or otherwise, and I feel that it is any Premier's duty to the country that after he has made a Statement and laid it on the Table of the House he should pay the House and the people of the country the courtesy of remaining to answer.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has risen on a point of order; but even before he makes his point, let me say this which I proposed to say as soon as the sentence was completed by the hon. junior member for

St. Joseph. Firstly, there is no obligation whatsoever for the Hon. Minister of Finance to be present in the House throughout, and it is seldom that in the Mother of Parliaments the Prime Minister finds himself there, so much so that in order to ensure the presence of the Prime Minister occasionally in the House of Commons as he has so much other very important business to undertake, there is a rule of the House of Commons requiring him to be there at 3.45 p.m. to answer any questions specifically directed to him on matters of which he has special cognisance. We now have established a Cabinet: and as Cabinet responsibility is a matter of collective responsibility, any of Her Majesty's Minister is equally entitled to speak for and on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. The Premier is merely *primus inter pares*, and it is unusual for the Minister of Finance of Great Britain, if he introduces a measure, even to exercise the right of final reply, because that is equally effectively done by any one or other of Her Majesty's Ministers.

My second point is that, according to Standing Orders, the Hon. Premier or any other Hon. Minister need not at any given time be present, and according to convention in the United Kingdom, precedence is given by the Prime Minister to urgent business of the Government otherwise than in Parliament, and that has resulted in the appointment of a Minister who is known as Leader of the House whose business it is to be present in the Chamber throughout to intervene in or finalise any debate or rise at any critical occasion to defend the Government. The Leader of the House, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, even now is on his feet.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I must apologise for interrupting the hon. junior member for St. Joseph so early in his remarks, but Your Honour has relieved me of the responsibility of making the few remarks I intended to make by anticipating what I intended to say, especially with reference to the responsibility for attendance in Parliament on the part of the Prime Minister and with regard to the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. I should like to say, however, that it was grossly unfair on the part of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to attempt....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the hon. member should, on a point of order, speak of unfairness or otherwise when in the course of the speech which the hon. member made....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: May I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Premier has been so interested in the debate that less than half an hour ago, as Your Honour will recall, he telephoned here to know how the debate was going on and whether his immediate presence was necessary, because, as Your Honour intimated, of the pressing business he has to do from day to day.

2.40 p.m.

Furthermore, all the Ministers here have been charged with the responsibility to listen carefully to speeches made by members on the Opposition benches and to reply when the time comes on the issues raised which concern their respective Ministries, and all of us are taking notes so that when the time comes, if it is necessary, the particular Minister will reply on the specific questions raised.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceed to address on the motion in respect of the passing of a Resolution re the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the Fiscal year 1964-65.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you have clearly said by the mentioning of the United Kingdom Parliament what should go on, and it is necessary for the Hon. Minister of Finance to be present; but knowing the Hon. Minister of Finance, as I do, I know why. You will remember, Sir, that the Hon. Minister of Finance, the Premier, when he laid his first Budget Statement, and when he changed the colour of his box for the first time from red to black, said that his Ministers did not know what was in that box until about fifteen minutes before he was ready to give his Statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Presumably on that occasion, he was speaking as Minister of Finance, and not as Premier. In any event, we are now considering the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals laid on the 30th June, 1964, as distinct from June, 1962 or 1963.

Mr. SMITH: I still take it that the Hon. Ministers did not know anything of these proposals until fifteen minutes before they were laid. Therefore, how on earth can any Minister reply on his behalf if they did not have time enough to peruse them and study them? I am saying what the Hon. Premier said at that particular meeting, and whether it is 1962, 1963, 1964 or 1965, until whatever time he is Hon. Premier, I cannot see it in any other way. Members of the Cabiner did not deny what he said; they sat in their seats and never said whether it was so or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Irrespective of what happened in 1962, may I again exhort the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to deal only with the Statement and Budgetary Proposals in respect of June, 1964.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to deny the allegation that in June, 1964, the Ministers did not know until fifteen minutes before what was in the Statement by the Hon. Premier; secondly, the remarks of the hon. member to the effect that if they did not know until then, they did not have enough time to study them. As Your Honour is aware, the Statement was laid a fortnight ago; therefore, the most naive back-bencher would be able to acquaint himself with the points made.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I am going to proceed with the Statement of 1964; but I still take it – and the people of Barbados would take it in this manner too – that it is gross disregard and scant courtesy by the Hon. Premier to be leaving his Ministers to reply to us over matters in his Statement. That is how I take it.

Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier in paragraph 2, says:

"At that time the Island was faced with a deficit of two million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars and has passed through a period of stagnation out of which it was necessary to jolt the economy. The Government introduced a new development plan to create employment, generate purchasing power amongst the masses of the people and to lay the foundation of a programme of industrialisation and diversification of agriculture.

"On the 7th May, 1963, my second financial statement was introduced and for the first time an economic survey of the Island for the year 1962 was tabled."

Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier said that he had to "jolt the economy", but I cannot see his having to jerk the economy of this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier in his statement said: "to jolt the economy", not to "jerk".

Mr. SMITH: When he used the word "jolt", I take it that that word means "jerk" too. *(Laughter).* They can laugh. Even the Hon. Minister of Education is laughing. He should know better. He should not have laughed when I said that. He is now laughing as if it is a joke upon me; but he does not know the meaning of "joke" when he laughs and that is why I would take him on on it.

When the Hon. Premier talked about the economy of this country and said that he had to jolt it, I think that this Government is thriving from the foundations of the last Government. Anyone, any businessman knows that if one made an investment in this year, he cannot look for profits within five years. When you make an investment, you only, so to speak, set up your work bench: and that is why the Government gives a tax relief to pioneer companies at least for five years because you cannot begin to feel that you are doing business properly until after five years.

Now, Sir, the last Government laid the foundations. They invested, and this present Government is now thriving off the investments of the last Government.

The Hon. Premier said that for the first time an economic survey of the Island for the year 1962 was tabled. I do not know, but the Economic Planning Unit, which did the job and not the Hon. Premier himself, was set up by the previous Government shortly before the 1961 elections. The Economic Planning Unit was set up shortly before the last Government went out of power and they did the job.

2.50 p.m.

When you read this Statement you would think that it was the Premier who caused this economic survey of the island to be made. He said that the first economic survey was made in 1962. That was set up shortly before the Elections and that being so, by all means the broom worked very fast and it did the sweeping well. Therefore you would expect that the economic survey would fall into the hands of the present Government in 1962, because the present Government came into power in December 1961 and soon after that there would have been the Christmas holiday. In that case you would have to say that the economic survey came about for the first time in 1962, but it was not because of the careful planning or thinking of the present Government. The Hon. Premier should not try to pat himself on the back that he was responsible for this. He should not try to make out that he and his Government was responsible for this economic survey of the island. The Economic Planning Unit had to do the job and it did it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member has said that the Hon. Premier and his Government should not make it appear that they are responsible for the economic survey of the island when the Economic Planning Unit did it. The Economic Planning Unit was established and operates under the Ministry of Finance. This survey was prepared by the Economic Planning Unit on the instructions of the Minister of Finance. The actual research, investigation, compilation of statistics and what not, was done by the Economic Planning Unit: but the matter of the preparation and the manner in which the survey should be prepared were done under the instruction of the Minister of Finance himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been made.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I hope you are not thinking that I am trying to sit in your seat, but you should tell the hon. member that he has the right and the time to reply. All the hon. member has to do now is to make his notes and reply when he is ready to do so: but everytime he is getting up on a point of order and trying to throw me off my stride, *(Laughter)*. That is what the hon. member is trying to do. He is trying to trip me up, However, Sir, today it will be trip for trip; therefore he may as well remain in his seat. I will start to read from the next paragraph of this statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is an old enough Parliamentarian not to know whom he can throw off his stride. In my humble view, that was a point of order although it could have been made in fewer words.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I object to the hon. member saying that I am attempting to throw him off his feet. With his weight that would present some difficulty: but, Sir, whenever the occasion arises during the course of the hon. member's speech, if he makes any misleading remark or statement which is obviously incorrect, I or some other member of the Government will have to correct him at the time, so long as we stick to the Standing Orders of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceed.

Mr. SMITH: I have said, Sir, that shortly before the Elections in 1961 this Economic Planning Unit was set up. Up to now, the Hon. Leader of the House has not denied that. I would have been out of order if there never had been an Economic Planning Unit. The Hon. Minister has not told us that there was no such thing. I am saying that what I say is not out of order. The hon. member has mentioned that the instructions for this economic survey were given by the Hon. Premier. The instructions would have had to be given by the Hon. Premier because the people of this island have elected him as the Minister of Finance for a period of three years, as they were told; but I am sure now that there will be another year which the people did not expect.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no mention at all of the life of the present Government in this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. This is the country. You are dealing with the entire country when you are dealing with the Budget. You are out to kill a man, and you are either killing him by hitting his head against the wall or putting him in the Black Box. When you see people dressed in black, they expect to go to a funeral; somebody is dead. In this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals the Hon. Premier said this:-

"On the 7th May, 1963, my second financial statement was introduced and for the first time an economic survey of the Island for the year 1962 was tabled."

I am saying, Sir, that the last Government laid the foundation and this Government has built on it. You have to spend very nearly as much time in building the foundation as you would have to take in erecting the entire building because you want to make a good foundation so that the building will be able to withstand any storm. If the foundation is not a properly laid one, then you can always look for cracks and breaks in the wall. Sir, I am glad to say that the last Government is responsible for the foundation. As far as I go down the paragraphs in this Statement, I will bring facts to bear on what I have just said. The last Government has laid the foundation; they have done it and in everything which appears in this Statement you can look back and see that it was not started by the present Government, regardless of what has been said today. The last Government was the Government in power and therefore it had to do its duty to the people. It could not do everything at the same time, but it made quite sure that first things came first. There is a lot which could have been done by the last Government, but they were thinking in terms of money. There are some people today who would be hard-headed businessmen, who would jump into this financial business regardless of what happens and trust to luck. Sometimes luck comes to them, and at other times it does not. The last Government was thinking in terms of what could or might happen if they spent all of the money; on the other hand, this Government took a different view of matters for three years. If they promised to spend $1,000 and they had $1, they would still carry out their programme, although the financial position would be in relation to only $1. That is the difference between this Government and the last Government; the one was cautious and the other is not cautious. It is only taking a chance. That is the reason for stating that it was necessary to jolt the economy of the island.

3.00 p.m.

When you are jolting, Sir, you are taking a chance, and this present Government is taking a chance and I sincerely hope it will succeed. The last Government approached this matter in a very cautious way, but at the same time trying its best. I would not take up the time of this Honourable Chamber now to say what they have done, but they did a lot, and it is the duty of any Government to do all that is possible for its people. I would not praise any Government for doing anything for its people, because that is its duty. If I have a cook at my home, I have to pay her, and if she gives me a nice meal that causes me to rake the plate, why should I go to the kitchen and praise her for that? I am not going to do that because I am paying her to encourage me to rake the plate; so if this Government does something good, I am not going to get up here and praise it to the skies, because it is doing what I expect it to do. As soon as I go and praise this Government, it means that I was underwriting it. I am not going to get up in here and talk about the Constitution Swamp, the Constitution

Bridge, the East Coast Road, and things of that nature. What I am going to remind them of is that first things should be done first. If there are people suffering, hungry and homeless, they should see to these first. If there are children outside knocking at the doors and trying to get into the schools at the cheapest rate, these things should come first; but when you go and build a Hilton Hotel and then tell me that the children cannot get into the schools and other people cannot get somewhere to live, I cannot praise the Government for that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the last Government started the ball rolling by expanding the hotel industry. They lent the hoteliers money to cater to the tourists and foreigners to come into the island and spend some money. That is nothing for me to praise them for; it was their duty. I should just like to get that on the records, because there are other members who spoke already who praised the Government to the highest for what it had done, and attacked the last Government.

Again, in this paragraph, Mr. Speaker, they are not numbered, so you must pardon me for not calling the number....

Mr. SPEAKER: But the pages are numbered.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, to be truthful, my pages are not numbered. Oh yes, Sir. *(Laughter).* I cannot find out what is wrong with the members on the other side; I am very glad to see that they are in a mood for laughing this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. This paragraph reads as follows:

"The Island finances have now recovered from the serious position in which they were two and a half years ago. Then there was a large gap between current revenue and current expenditure, and there was a prospect of the situation worsening. The transformation is as much due to the strict control of current expenditure as to the extraordinarily large increase of revenue which resulted from the general economic improvement and collections in respect of previous years. The following figures of current expenditure speak for themselves:-

1960-61	22.7 million
1961-62	27.7 ,,
1962-63	28.4 ,,
1963-64	29.1 ,,

On the revenue side the figures are:-

1960-61	26.0 million
1961-62	26.2 million
1962-63	28.1 ,,
1963-64	33.7 ,,

It must be admitted that the extraordinary increase in the revenue is due to fortuitous circumstances, and that there is no assurance that these will be repeated in future years. The salient fact is that sugar continues to dominate completely the economy of the Island. We were perhaps fortunate last year that this was so. Sugar and its by-products accounted for 92% of the total domestic exports."

Sir, I know that, and I am very glad to see that the Hon. Premier knows it too and has stated it here. When he says that sugar and its by-products accounted for 92% of the total domestic exports, that means that the workers in the sugar industry are playing a very big part in this Budget during this year 1964-65. If you do not get the workers to turn out daily and toil in the sun and rain to make the sugar industry a success, you will be nowhere. I would like to know what the Government is doing now to encourage these workers. The time is coming that if the Government does not take a serious view of this matter and allows the industry to mechanise, it will have to look for something for the people to do. The young people of today are not thinking of going into the sugar industry, because they feel that when you are toiling in the field and doing agriculture labour, you can do nothing else than that. They are looking up and going forward, but we still have a certain amount of workers in this country which must be provided for; so what is this Government doing for it? 3.10 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has not made mention at all about these workers. I am saying here and now that these people are being forgotten by the Government at the moment and I am going to prove it. They are forgotten for some reason or other because no mention had been made of them and contrary to a lot of Reports that are pending, Reports which will work out to the benefit of these people, we hear nothing of these Reports and that is the reason why the Government is dragging their heels on these Reports.

I am going to prove it. First of all, these workers during the windfall and the rainfall last year have played a big part for the Government being able to get a few million dollars. Well, Sir, the Government will pardon me, but the praise and the thanks which the Government was dishing out to these workers were that they intended to bring a Bill before the House to show how their windfall money must be spent. In other words, they did not intend to give it to the workers; they intended to bring a Bill to take away the windfall money from them.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but I have to. He has just said something which is not only inaccurate, but it is intended on his part to reflect on a decision taken by this House - a decision to which he, himself, was a part and which was taken by this House in good faith.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I said that they had intended to bring a Bill about that matter. Why have they not brought the Bill? After we made it so hot for them and it became a hot brick, they dropped it.

I only raised that point to make this point. I only want them and the people to think how they are thinking of the working class people. It is only the Party which the present Government has said that they have dropped them down on their knees and which will never be able to rise again, which is responsible for this hot brick. I only wanted to show how this Government is thinking of the working-class people. They have not mentioned anything about these workers at all. I am representing an agricultural community and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, if you were not in the Chair, when I am finished, that you would have taken on from where I left off.

They had no one to represent them. Last Tuesday, the Trade Union Leader got up in here and lambasted the last Government and ended up by lambasting my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. George, and me. He said not one word about the workers. He said not one word of the Stockman Report or any other Report. The Trade Union Leader has not done that; so I would have to fill in that gap.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member is fully aware that the question of workers and the Stockman Report are subjects which are not under discussion. I will draw to the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that the Financial Statement is not the Manifesto of the Government Party; it is not a Statement of policy on the part of the Government; it is not for challenging what stand the Government is going to take during this Session. All that we are dealing with is the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals in respect of the current year. This subject deals with finance. It deals with the revenue and expenditure and the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the estimated cost.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 4 on the Order Paper on Private Members' Business is an item standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John to move an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech to which we will no doubt, in the course of time, devote our attention. At the moment, we are merely considering the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals laid by the Hon. Premier in the House a fortnight ago and the Resolution before us is to deal with

that alone. Such comments which the hon. member proposes to make, and is making, is in respect of general policy which was contained in His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session, which we have not yet had an opportunity to debate.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Sir, I am going to deal with the paragraph of this Financial Statement which reads as follows:-

"We were perhaps fortunate last year that this was so Sugar and its by-products accounted for 92% of the total domestic exports."

Now, Sir, this is sugar which the Hon. Premier was dealing with. How are we going to get sugar? First things first. You have to look for labour in the first instance; otherwise, you will not get one pound of sugar.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise in the subject under discussion that the revenue is derived from labour. That does not arise directly, or even indirectly, from the Statement before us. That can be brought up in another way on another occasion.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, if you want me to bring it another way, I will certainly have to do so; but this thing is bound up in this matter. Forasmuch as these are the Budget Proposals, they deal with how you are going to get money to spend. Sir, it is only because some people may still be feeling that the elections are near or that this is election year that the people have got a little lapse in paying of taxes; but it is still responsible for taxation because you have taken off some. This Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals is a very broad thing. It is elastic. It talks about finance; and when you talk about money, it is finance. You are dealing with finance. You are saying how it is derived and how you are going to spend it and how you are going to get it. I am trying to keep within the bounds of this Financial Statement. In it, you do not see the word "workers" and you know that you cannot get sugar without the workers. Sugar is mentioned without your having the word "workers" mentioned in this Statement. The first thing you have to do to get sugar is to plant canes and agricultural workers have to do that. Therefore, we have to think in terms of these workers.

Mr. SPEAKER: And that may be effectively dealt with in another debate on a different subject matter, or on any other appropriate occasion; but a debate on workers cannot arise in discussing the Budget Proposals and Financial Statement laid by the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SMITH: The peasants also have to play a big part in sugar production. The peasants are just like what I term the sugar producers. The peasants play a big part in the production of sugar.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Apparently, the hon. member has not understood or will not understand the strictures which have just been made by Your Honour with respect to the subject of workers in this debate.

3.20 p.m.

It seems that even at the risk of repeating yourself, Your Honour will have to remind the hon. member that he must deal in this Financial Statement with the matters to which the debate can appropriately be referred. We cannot listen to the hon. member's speech about peasants and matters which are completely foreign to this discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I remind the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that we are now engaged in discussing a Resolution which reads as follows:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House view with concern the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the Fiscal year 1964-65 contained in a Statement laid in this Honourable House on Tuesday, 30th June, 1964, by the Honourable Premier."

May I therefore try to emphasise that we are dealing now with a Resolution which speaks of Proposals contained in a Statement laid in this House by the Hon. Premier? The operative and effective words are "Contained in a Statement laid in this House...."

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. Mr. Speaker, you have reminded me that as soon as a Resolution standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John comes up in this House for discussion, I will have the chance of discussing all of these things.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. member will have ample opportunity of doing that. What the hon. member is now discussing as a question of policy set out in the Governor's Speech at the beginning of the Session. The hon. member's point would definitely arise there; but now we are only dealing with the proposals contained in a Statement laid by the Hon. Premier in this House.

Mr. SMITH: Really, Sir, the way in which the hon. member is dealing with these things we will never get any chance of discussing that matter. You know, Sir, how long that Resolution was on the Order Paper. It was Order No. 1 on some Order Paper. I believe that the hon. member knows what is going to happen and that is why he is keeping the Resolution there.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to the hon. member that he should have a private word with the hon. junior member for St. John. If he is not satisfied in this matter, he should have a final word with the hon. member.

Mr. SMITH: I cannot approach the hon. member because he has referred to the size of my head already and I may have to butt him. *(Laughter).*

Mr. SPEAKER: That should be regarded as a compliment by the hon. member.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD rose to speak on a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Why has the hon. member risen?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is on a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: He has not said that.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member was threatening to butt somebody just now and therefore he could not have heard what I said. The hon. member is not justified in casting any unfair motives against the hon. junior member for St. John. The fact that the hon. member has not yet debated this Resolution is due to circumstances of which Your Honour is quite aware. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph, like the hon. junior member for St. John, is equally a member of this Hon. House and there is no reason why he cannot bring forward a motion setting out what he wants to debate. The hon. member does not have to wait on the hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to hear the Hon. Minister say that; but he well knows how they handled me with my Resolution. The time had passed and you had to take the matter off the Order Paper. They are only saying what they are saying now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolutions are taken off the Order Paper in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders of this House. As soon as a period of three months has expired and no attempt has been made to deal with any Resolution on the Order Paper, then it is the duty of the Clerk to see that the Resolution disappears from the Order Paper It might cost the Clerk his job if he fails to take such Resolutions off the Order Paper.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I will show you how they tried to bamboozle me on the last occasion.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order; Nobody on this side of the Table ever tried to bamboozle the hon. member on the last occasion. What the hon. member is probably thinking of is what his Party did to us when they were in office. (Members: Hear! Hear!)

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, did you hear the Hon. Minister of Education with his "Hear! Hear!"?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not listening to the Hon. Minister of Education; that Hon. Minister is not on his feet.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am going on. I am still at page 2 of this Statement. This is what the Hon. Premier said:

"It is difficult to predict what will happen in the world sugar market or in world trade generally in the coming year, but the basic position is not too discouraging. The increase in the tourist trade continues, and it is good to report that the number of tourists who arrived in the Island in the first quarter of 1964 exceeded the number in the same quarter of 1963 by 1,436."

It was very nice for them to pat themselves on the shoulder for that. The Hon. Premier goes on to say this:

"Considerable progress has been made in the arrangements for our new currency following the notification by Trinidad and Tobago and by British Guiana of their intention to issue their own currencies."

Never mind how new the currency is and you do not earn it, it is still of no use to me. The old cent and the new cent are the same except, of course, if the new cent is worth more than the old one. The Hon. Premier went on to say this:

"Every month from January to May this year deposits made in the Government Savings Bank have exceeded $700,000. This is a record. Savings in the commercial banks have also reached figures. At 31st March deposits in the Government Savings Bank amounted to $18,229,000 while savings in the Commercial banks totalled $26,730,000. At that date total deposits in commercial banks reached the record figure of $66,146,000 while loans and advances amounted to $42,430,000...."
3.30 p.m.

I feel, Sir, that most of the money going to the Government Savings Bank was due to people going outside and posting back money. That is a very good sign and I hope it will continue. The Statement continues as follows:-

"Despite inflationary tendencies, the cost of living has been kept down. The index of retail prices for the month of March, 1964, was the same as the figure for July, 1963."

Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier is an economist and knows figures backwards. I think he can turn a "2" into a "12" and you would not find it out, because economists can do these things. I wonder if the Hon. Premier is really serious when he puts in this Statement that the cost of living has been kept down. I wonder if he is living in Barbados and knows about prices in the shops. I do not know if housewives have read that the cost of living is being kept down. If the Premier were here, I would take him up on that statement, and that is why I would like to see him in his seat, because all the economist that he is, I would fold him up on this. I wonder if he were here when the Minister of Education brought in his little basket some time ago during the time of the last Government. I believe that if the Minister of Education had seen when this was being put in, he would prevent it, because he knows this backwards. If the Hon. Premier is going to run this Government by telling us these things, I will leave him to the people, because I know they will not accept that the cost of living is being kept down.

Quite recently, Sir, the price of English potatoes went up, and you would be surprised to know that I paid 14 cents for a mango.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has referred to the fact that recently there was an increase in the cost of English potatoes. I merely want to say that this is an event which has occurred every year at this time of the year for the last 15 or 20 years. All the time that they were in office, that happened. When potatoes are unavailable from certain sources and have to be bought elsewhere, the price must go up.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is not a point of order, but a point which could properly be made when the Hon. Minister is replying.

Mr. SMITH: You can clearly see, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member wants to tumble me off my feet, but he has a good job to do it today. I am rigged for him and he cannot move me today at all. He will have to keep his muzzle on the Chair because he cannot muzzle me this afternoon. Imagine paying 14 cents for a mango and 12 cents for an orange. People who are on diet and have to use these things have to pay for them regardless of how poor they are. There are poor working-class people who have to use these things; yet the Premier tells us that the cost of living has been kept down. Anyhow, Sir, I am going on. The last paragraph on page 3 reads as follows:-

"The island's public debt is now over $40 million. There are already advances pending the raising of loans of about $7 million and interest rates are unusually high. Some re-assessment of the method of financing capital expenditure is therefore necessary. To reduce the amount which we shall have to raise on loans, I therefore propose that the surplus realised on current account in 1963-64 be allocated to defray part of the capital expenditure in the current year which would otherwise fall to be financed from loan funds. This will reduce the amount which we will require to raise on loan and will strengthen our position."

Now, Mr. Speaker, the island is $40 million in debt and the interest is usually high. You have by rainfall and windfall and taxation managed to make a little money, but you do not know what is going to happen in the other years; so to get away from raising any loans on which you have to pay interest, you are going to play with this money. I believe, however, that something else should be done with this money. I do not want you to call me to order, because you may say that it is not in the proposals, but this surplus is out of the toil and sweat of the people. By pinning them to the wall with high taxation, and by knocking them upside down with four cents on a gill of rum and 5 cents on a gallon of gasolene, you have made this money; yet you say that the cost of living has been kept down. You have to budget for your gasolene even before you budget for your groceries, because if you do not put gasolene in your car, you cannot get to the job; so that is part of your cost of living. I am not going to give you the slightest bit of trouble in calling me back from straying by saying how this money should be spent, because the time is coming when I will be able to tear the jacket off the hon. senior member for St. John with his Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member means that he will tear the jacket off the Resolution, but not off the hon. member.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. Now the new Hospital was referred to. It is a very nice building, but I am going to tell him that he cannot expect to have such a nice building for a hospital, and give the nurses the few pennies they are giving them.
3.40 p.m.

They have got to budget for money for them. They have to look and budget for more money and pay these people to suit. You have got a building; therefore, you have to get the staff. Do not think that you are going to get away with any sweet talk. Your doctor, your nurse and your cook are the three people whom you have to respect. At least, those are the three persons whom I respect. You have to try and encourage some of our people who have gone to work for a dollar more to come back here and give some of their service to this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us keep to this Resolution dealing with the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the Fiscal Year 1964-65.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I do not know what to hit on now. Everything I have to leave off. Well, I will leave off and I will come back to them.

"Improvements to Seawell International Airport are being carried out at an average annual cost of some $700,000 over and above the cost of extensive land acquisition for necessary expansion. Proposals are being worked on for certain additional charges to defray this capital expenditure over a period. The net revenue from these proposals is estimated to be in the region of $135,000 but the details have yet to be settled."

We have a nice Airport there and it should take us some money.

Now, Sir, you come to the Civil Servants. These people I will say, are responsible people in the community and to the Government. If you do not have a good Civil Service, you cannot have a proper Government. And we have heard the credit which has been given to them by the Hon. Premier. If I am not mistaken, he said that something would have to happen extraordinary to consider them for a change. In this Budget Statement now, he has said:

"Details of the changes will be laid before the House as soon as the necessary Regulations and Orders have been made."

At present, the rates and allowances for those officers who travel by motor car are: 'the first 200 miles each month at 28 cents per mile: the next 150 miles each month at eight cents per mile, and any mileage over 350 miles each month is seven cents per mile. He goes on to say:

"Higher costs of maintaining and running motor cars have been put forward as reasons for an increase in the rates paid, and I have accepted that the following new rates are reasonable:-"

"First 200 miles each month at 30 cents per mile, next 200 miles each month at eight cents per mile, any mileage over 400 miles each month at seven cents per mile.

"These new rates will come into effect from 1st July. The increase is expected to cost $10,350 per annum in the current financial year, and $14,800 per annum."

Now, Sir, this is the part which I am going to comment on: "Higher costs of maintaining and running motor cars have been put forward as reasons for an increase in the rates paid, and I have accepted that the following new rates are reasonable:----"

I have looked up the dictionary to see what the word "reasonable" means. The Hon. Premier said that he has taken into consideration the high maintenance costs of these people's motor cars and this is the rate which he has said is reasonable. After putting on consumption tax - and that has prevented me from getting one; I will still like to get one - then the cost of gasolene is five cents more for a gallon and you are going to tell me that an increase of one penny per mile is reasonable. If I were those Civil Servants, I would not take it at all; I would leave it in the Treasury. It is an insult to them. You took into consideration the high cost of maintaining a motor car. You have to pay five cents more for a gallon of gas.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has accused the Government of putting an increase on gasolene. He said that this increase has been to the extent that he has to see cars in the garage and leave them because he cannot afford to buy one. That tax was put on, not by this Government, but by his Government.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that a consumption tax was put on motor cars and that has prevented me from keeping one. I am making my point that the increase is not reasonable. He gets up and say "my Government."

Mr. SPEAKER: When one says "my Government", so far as I am concerned, that phrase means "the Government of Barbados".

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: When the hon. members talks of the tax on gasolene, he talks as if that was an action by the present Government. That is what I am refuting.

Mr. SMITH: I am talking of the tax on gasolene and the tax on cars. Regardless of who put them on, they are put on; and from the time they were put on, no increase was made on the travelling allowances of these Civil Servants. Therefore, I would have to raise the point and say that it is not reasonable. You have put on one penny per mile. Imagine you have a motor car giving you, let us say about 18 miles per gallon of gasolene. Some give you 20 miles, some 22 miles, some as low as 12 miles, because every Civil Servant does not have the same type of motor car. If it is 18 miles per gallon, you can work it out and see what is happening. You give an increase of one penny per mile. In other words, the officer's travelling allowances would basically be increased by $4.50. Why I say I would not take it and I would leave it in the Treasury, it is because it is an insult to them. When you take into consideration the cost of a car and the maintenance of it today, it is very costly.

3.50 p.m.

How can you tell me that you are keeping down the cost of living? They will have to go into their salaries in order to keep their motor cars because the travelling allowance cannot cope with the upkeep of the cars. Anybody will tell you that, and therefore it is better for these Civil Servants to refuse this penny a mile. If they were to travel 200 miles that would only be $4.00.

Mr. SPEAKER: What do I undertand the hon. member to say? Does he mean to say that the Civil Servants should not draw the travelling allowance at all or does he mean the extra?

Mr. SMITH: I mean the extra. I would not draw the extra allowance. That is the decision I would make if I were in their position; but Sir, these Civil Servants will have to take the extra.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, cannot the hon. member keep quiet?

Mr. SPEAKER: What has the hon. member risen on?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not find such in the Standing Orders of this House. There is a point of order or a point of elucidation in accordance with Standing Order 28.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am on a point of elucidation then.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a point to elucidate some matter raised by the hon. member in the course of his speech. I am afraid that the hon. member has not yet spoken.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, rising on a point of order is just as appropriate in this case.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope it is.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member has accused the Government of not paying out proper increases in the travelling allowance to Civil Servants, and he says that they have only been given a penny a mile, which is of no use to them. It is of no use to them because, says he....

Mr. SMITH: That is not a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a point which can be dealt with in reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am not so sure about that.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a difference of opinion. Anyhow, let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceed.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member does not want me to proceed.

Hon W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is under Standing Order 26 (7).

Hon W. A. CRAWFORD: I have absolutely no desire to hinder the hon. member's progress in the direction in which he is going; but, Sir, I will prevent him from falling into pitfalls as he progresses.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said that he will do his best to prevent the hon. member from falling into any pitfalls as the hon. member progresses. The hon. member has expressed his deep concern towards the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and we cannot question his integrity.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member is sorry enough that a pit is not in here now, because he is talking of pitfalls *(Laughter)*. The hon. member does not want to see me on this floor.

Mr. SPEAKER: He does not want to see the hon. member on that side.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, in due course. Now the Hon. Premier in his Statement goes on to say this:-

"The Inland Revenue Department is now vigorously collecting arrears: 217 cases have been lodged by the Department. The pressure will be intensified."

That will speak for itself. I may be one of them. You can see that this pressure will be intensified. That means that no mercy is being given. After pinning you to the wall with high taxation, if you do not go and pay it now, you will go to jail. On the other hand, if a person has anything it will be sold out for non-payment. Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to know that a gentleman was driving his car and the bailiff stopped him to take the car from him for the non-payment of taxes. That means, Sir, that you have to be more careful now. A person like me will have to be very careful indeed. If you do not pay the high taxation you are threatened and you will have to go up Hindsbury Road.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member mean on the way up to Combermere School?

Mr. SMITH: One may not get so far. Mr. Speaker, in this Financial Statement, the Hon. Premier went on as follows:-

"The excellent collections last year should lead to some optimism as to the prospects in the current financial year. Much of the taxation will be based on extraordinary large profits from last year's bumper sugar crop which was sold at record prices; so income tax collections in the current financial year should exceed those in 1963-64, which amounted to $10,183, 960. I am informed, however, that profits of traders fell below expectations. This may be the direct result of a policy of vertical integration being pursued by commission houses in so far as wholesaling and retailing of goods is concerned. There has been during the year a spectacular growth in the number of supermarkets which must inevitably lead to the liquidation of the small retail shopkeeper.

"If this class of small businessman is to survive he will have to learn quickly the benefits of co-operative enterprise, pleasant and sanitary business premises and the building up of confidence amongst his customers that they receive fair measure and good quality."

Mr. Speaker, imagine a Statement like this going forward to the public from the Premier of this country! I can only take it that these small retailers keep their business places in a dirty and unpleasant condition; and they are robbing the people by not giving them fair measures and good quality. That is what enters a paragraph in this Statement coming from the Premier of this country. The Premier is in charge of the Police.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR rose to speak.

Mr. SMITH: Look out, Sir, I am not sitting down. If these small businessmen.....

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, because the hon. member in referring to this Statement made by the Hon. Premier, is distorting it as he reads it.

4.00 p.m.

The second paragraph on page 7 of the Financial Statement reads as follows:-

"If this class of small businessman is to survive he will have to learn quickly the benefits of co-operative enterprise, pleasant and sanitary business premises and the building up of confidence amongst his customers that they receive fair measure and good quality."

Before that, the Hon. Premier says: "There has been during the year a spectacular growth in the number of.....

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, ask the hon. member to sit down. He is making a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Education is citing certain passages apropos of a point of order which I am made to understand he proposes to make.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: As I was saying, Sir, before that paragraph begins, the Hon. Premier says: "There has been during the year a spectacular growth in the number of supermarkets which must inevitably lead to the liquidation of the small retail shopkeeper." It is after that that he says what the small businessman should do if he is to survive.

Now the point of order is this: to draw the inference from what he has read in the second paragraph that the hon. member is casting aspersions on small shopkeepers and small businessmen is distortion. The Hon. Premier is drawing to their attention why the supermarkets succeed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been duly made.

Mr. SMITH: I will deal now, Sir, with the supermarkets. There are several supermarkets about the island; but they charge, as the old time shopkeepers would say, cut-throat prices. Well, the customer is likely to benefit from that, because as soon as you get competition, the consumer wins. However, the small shopkeeper must be taken into consideration because he is playing a big part, especially in the country districts. The Hon. Minister of Education knows nothing about this because he is not a shopkeeper, but shopkeepers in the country have to exist on "trusting", but supermarkets are 'cash-and-carry'. The shopkeepers in the country have to serve the very poorest class of person, and that is the agricultural worker; and when it come to September, October, and November when the plantations can only give two or three days' work and there is a family of eight or ten in a home, these shopkeepers have to credit until the crop starts in the following year.

If the Hon. Premier wants to know what can happen - I would not like to see it happen - let the Roebuck Street merchants stop crediting shopkeepers, and let the shopkeepers stop crediting their customers in the country. Instead of the Hon. Premier getting out of his swivel chair and going around and keeping his ears to the ground and seeing what is happening between those two categories of shopkeepers, he is telling the small people that if they do not learn quickly, they will suffer. A supermarket proprietor can afford to sell a case of condensed milk and make 50 cents on it, but there is a possibility of his selling 50 or 100 cases on a Friday or a Saturday, and he could still make $50 if he sells 100 cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will counsel the hon. junior member for St. Joseph not to go into detail as to how these supermarkets run their businesses.

Mr. SMITH: The Hon. Prmier says that this class of small businessman will have to learn. He says they will have to learn quickly, and should have pleasant and sanitary business premises. I take that to mean that the premises are not pleasant and sanitary, and that is an insult to the Local Government Authorities and the small businessman, because the local authorities are responsible for the sanitary conditions of any particular area. It means too that the Sanitary Authorities and Public Health Inspectors are not doing their job. I will go further and say that the D.L.P. Government dominates the two Councils in the Country; so he is also throwing an insult at them, because they are not doing their job if they allow unpleasant and insanitary business premises to exist.

Mr. SPEAKER: All this paragraphs says, in its first and second lines, is that "if this class of small businessman is to survive, he will have to learn quickly the benefits...." That is all that is stated there. It simply says that the small businessman will have to learn quickly the benefits of these things.

Mr. SMITH: I will not take you upon that Sir, because you are a lawyer; but my commonsense tells me...

What is it that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is saying over there?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no hon. member speaking now, except the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: It is a pity I have to pay one like him to be a Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. junior member for St. Joseph have a Parliamentary Secretary?

Mr. SMITH: So long as he is getting my money, he is my man.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore, it is possible that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is drawing his.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Premier went on to say:

"If this class of small businessman is to survive he will have to learn quickly the benefits of co-operative enterprise, pleasant and sanitary business premises and the building up of confidence amongst his customers that they receive fair measure and good quality."

What can that mean? He has to learn. That means that I will have to learn a thing if I did not know it. When you send a child to school, you send it to school to learn. If that child knows his A.B.C., and is able to spell "cat", c - a - t, he will not go in that class. In this case, they are too slow on it. If you were to listen, the Hon. Minister of Education is speaking saying this and that, but he would wish to twist up these words.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I object to the imputation that I twist up words. The hon. member may not possibly know this, but what he is now doing is this. He is taking something which the Hon. Premier is not associated with, out of its context.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, the Hon. Minister is trying to put me right, Let him try hard. I know what this says. This says:

"If this class of small businessman is to survive he will have to learn quickly the benefits of co-operative enterprise, pleasant and sanitary business premises and the building up of confidence amongst his customers that they receive fair measure and good quality."

You know what that means because the Hon. Premier sat in here and said that when people go on a shop counter, they mind other people's business, and when that is going on the shopkeeper weighs anything and gives them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I fail to see any repetition of that in this Statement.

Mr. SMITH: What has got me to believe some of that is because the Hon. Premier has two members of his Party who are shopkeepers. He goes on their premises and so he sees what he sees and smells. The Hon. Premier is talking authoritatively. He is talking from what he sees and smells.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph not to deal with any personalities or as to who goes where, why or when. Let us maintain this debate on the highest possible level.

Mr. SMITH: I am moving on. "Some months ago Mr. Speaker, during the course of a debate, I pointed out that it was not justified to accuse this Government of being unfair in not taxing the rich, since less than 1,200 people in this community were already paying 95% of the income tax collected and out of a total working population of close on 100,000 persons there are only just over 10,000 taxpayers, whilst two hundred and sixty companies account for the bulk of the receipts collected by the Department of Inland Revenue.

"My statement was immediately transfigured by the local press into a pronouncement that it is unfair to tax the rich whilst I was merely pointing out that we were taxing the rich to the limit of their capacity to pay whilst the people who complain most are those who pay no direct taxes at all. Moreover, the middle income groups in this Island are hard pressed to meet demands placed upon their resources for housing and even the normal requirements of comfortable family existence. I have, therefore, examined the feasibility of assessment of the wife's income separately from her husband's where both happen to be in receipt of incomes."

Now, Sir, I disagree with this because if it is only a few companies which are paying the bulk of the taxes -

Mr. SPEAKER: There are 260.

Mr. SMITH: Well, 260. Those companies consist of various businesses. You will get the ironmongery. You will get another selling cloth, another agricultural implements, another food, and things of that sort. If these companies pay most of the taxes, how it is that they are able to pay all this tax? It is because of the business which they are doing. It is because of the small set of people buying those articles which the companies are selling. It is because of the small man's money which goes into the business places which causes the business people to make a return. I will not say it is the business man himself. If I owned a business or I was opening a business and nobody goes into it to buy anything, that business would not be able to make a return for taxable income. It is the people who are buying the goods. It is the small people who are responsible for the business which that company makes. Let us say that I am the Managing Director of a Company and I put $10,000 in the company and the other Directors put in a similar amount. We pool together and we open a business. If people do not come in to buy or if I as Managing Director do not get people to come in and spend money, what would happen to the business? We stand to lose more. It is because of the people who buy that cause you to make a profit. In truth and in fact, no business can make a return unless people come in and buy; and when 1,000 people go and buy, the money which they spend goes into only one man's pocket. When that man makes $1,000 profit, that is only one man. If he sells cheaper than how he bought or he sells only to offset his managerial expenses, he would not leave anything to make a return. Let us say that he has a motor car to sell which is worth $600 and his profit is $100 and he sells it. If he sells it for less, he would lose money and you would say that he is doing business in such a way as not to make a return. But it is the number of customers who are buying from that business place that causes that man to pay the taxes; therefore, I disagree with the Hon. Premier when he says that most of the taxes are being paid by the bigger people. It is

not true to say so. It is the people who spend the money that cause that man to pay taxes.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Again, the hon. member is not only distorting the Hon. Premier, but the plain facts that are set out. If you read the paragraph to which the hon. member is drawing our attention, you will see that by the context the Hon. Premier points out the number of people who pay direct taxes, as distinct from all others who contribute to the revenue, and it is in respect of that minority - and that minority alone - that anything which is mentioned in this paragraph is referred to. The Hon. Premier did not say that only the rich pay taxes; he did not say that the majority of the people do not pay taxes of some kind.
4.20 p.m.

All he said was that those who pay direct taxation are in the minority. That is all that the hon. member could truthfully say of this Statement and hon. members must be aware of this distortion.

Mr. SPEAKER: On page 7 of this Statement, this is what the Premier says:-

"My statement was immediately transfigured by the local press into a pronouncement that it is unfair to tax the rich whilst I was merely pointing out that we were taxing the rich to the limit of their capacity to pay whilst the people who complain most are those who pay no direct taxes at all,..."

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I still feel happy that I can bring up the big shots every three or five Minutes to their feet; I will continue to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member does not refer to any hon. member of this House as a big shot.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I think that there were about four speakers already before me, and I do not think that there was any interruption of their speeches. (Mr. BOXILL: Because nobody distorted the facts like you.) Mr. Speaker, have you heard the Hon. Minister of Education?

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not hear the Hon. Minister of Education.

Mr. SMTH: I would put my butt on him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am rising in my own defence. I do not have to go into the gutter because I do not think the hon. member can command the language better than I; but I can assure the hon. member that he did not hear me say anything about distorting the facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sometimes you cannot tell who has made an undertone since hon. members are sitting so closely to each other; but I suggest to the hon. member that he should not mind any undertones.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Premier in his Statement goes on to say this:

"In view however of the healthy balance achieved last year and the unlikelihood of an actual deficit during the current year, I do not propose that there should be any increase in the rates of income tax this year, and accordingly a bill to fix the rates of tax on the same basis as last year will be introduced in this House today."

Now, Sir, the Premier says "In view however of the healthy balance....." How on earth could the Premier think of increasing taxation this year when he had already taxed the people and got his money? Could he still come back and tax them again this year?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. There must be something wrong with the copy of this Statement from which the hon. member is reading. The hon. member has just read as follows:-

"In view however of the healthy balance achieved last year and the unlikelihood of an actual deficit during the current year, I do not propose that there should be any increase in the rates of income tax this year, and accordingly a Bill to fix the rates of tax on the same basis as last year will be introduced in this House today.

That refers, of course, to two weeks ago. The hon. member is quoting the Hon. Premier as saying that it is not proposed that there should be any increase in taxation, and now he says that there is taxation, as if it is what the Premier proposes to do today.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member is not taking any taxation; in other words, the Black Box has lost its sting. I am asking: How can the Premier expect to tax the people today when he has done it already and has got what he wanted? He taxed the people and got what he wanted, and more. In other words, what is there remaining to be taxed? I would like to know what is going to be taxed now? The hon. member got what he wanted – and more – by taxation. Mr. Speaker, I forgot to use the words "High taxation." If the hon. member did not tread so hard on the heels of the motor car owners and on the rum drinkers, he would have had to come back for a berry, but he has taxed them already.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order. I do not understand how the hon. junior member for St. Joseph could distort the clear intention of this Statement. The Premier has said:

"In view however of the healthy balance achieved last year and the unlikelihood of an actual deficit during the current year, I do not propose that there should be any increase in the rates of income tax this year, and accordingly a bill to fix the rates of tax on the same basis as last year will be introduced in this House today."

Therefore, the attempts made by the hon. member to insist that the Hon. Premier somehow would have taxed the people but did not tax them are entirely out of order and misleading. There has been no direct taxation laid on this year, and therefore the question that the Hon. Premier could have or might have taxed the people does not arise at all, because the Premier did not tax them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been made.

Mr. SMITH: Since the Hon. Premier has over-collected money, you have some wives who only go out to work.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There are some wives who only go out to work.. *(Laughter)*

Mr. SMITH: There are some wives who have to go out to work so as to get ends to meet. When these wives go out to work they have to employ a servant or another servant so as to keep back the little children as people say. No husband would allow his wife to go out to work if he is, in truth and in fact, in a position to keep her at home, and therefore the wife has to go out to work in order to get ends to meet. Really, Sir, some consideration should be given to the allowances. The salary of the wife or her wages is put alongside that of the husband and therefore you are getting income tax from both of them.

As to the allowances to a man who has his wife and who has his children going to school, some consideration should be given to him. I am saying, Sir, that the Hon. Premier should go into the allowances given to these people. With the present high cost of living, I think that a little more consideration should be given to these people. As I have already said, Sir, no man is going to allow his wife to work when she could remain at home and see after his meals and to attend to the children.
4.30 p.m.

A mother loves her children, but she has to go out and leave them in the hands of strangers whether or not they are well kept. She has to work so as to keep the children from dying of starvation; and since the Premier sees that he has made a little profit, he should be doing something for these people, which would make me feel that he is a Socialist and has the feelings and interest of these working-

class people at heart. He would really touch the soft spot in my heart if he did that.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a reference on page 7 to which I may perhaps venture to draw the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, which reads as follows:- "I am of the opinion that such an exercise would lead to a substantial reduction in revenue which cannot be entertained at this stage of our development."

Mr. SMITH: I do not see where the allowances are recommended.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand it, the Statement sets out that the matter has been considered, that its feasibility has been examined, but because of the opinion that such an exercise would lead to substantial reduction in revenue, that cannot be entertained at this stage of our development; but it has been according to this Statement, examined, and the opinion arrived at is that it cannot be entertained at this stage of our development.

Mr. SMITH: He did not mention how much it would cost. Did he state how much it would cost?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see any amount mentioned.

Mr. SMITH: If it were not going to cost $4 million, he could still consider it because they collected $4 million. If he had done it to the tune of $2 million, he would still have saved $2 million. Having collected this surplus money, that should encourage him to think of doing something for these people, because the rate of taxation has not been increased, and it is a possibility that he will collect another $4 million next year.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, may I interrupt the hon. member to ask him to repeat the statement about collecting $4 million?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House did not hear the last sentence by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, which he has requested him to be good enough to repeat.

Mr. SMITH: If he were paying attention to what I was saying, he would have heard.

Mr SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the Hon. Leader did not hear, may I invite the hon. member to repeat it?

Mr. SMITH: That shows, Sir, that he was not paying attention to what I was saying.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: If I have not heard, how can I refer to it? That part of the sentence was slurred.

Mr. SPEAKER: The acoustics of this building are not all that they might be.

Mr. SMITH: Can you make me repeat it?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I cannot.

Mr. SMITH: All right, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I recall when the Hon. Leader of the House said just now that he would try and keep you away from pitfalls; so, in the same spirit, I want you to try to help him in that matter in which the Hon. Leader needs assistance.

Mr. SMITH: With regard to the Harbour, Mr. Speaker, I expected that by now there would have been some inquiry into its working with a view to reducing the cost of living, because landing charges are cheaper than when you were using the Careenage. The consumer is paying the same price, and it is time that something should be done to reduce the cost of living. Quite a lot of money has been saved through mechanical handling, and I thought that by now the Government would have done something to reduce the landing costs which could be passed on to the consumer. Since the Premier has said that the cost of living is the same as it was last year, it is possible that he might not have taken that into consideration. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, first things should come first, but it looks as if this Government thinks about last things first. People pay taxes very comfortably, but they still want some kind of relief, and it is time that the Government try to make the cost of living as low as possible.

Before I sit down, Sir, I had a point to make in relation to the working class people in the sugar industry, but I do not believe that you are going to allow me to make it, although it is a very serious point with relation to the Labour Commissioner turning down an application for recognition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must appeal to the hon. member. That is far outside the Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. SMITH: I will be able to raise it another time, and I hope I will be in good form to raise it and put it very nicely. I am going to wrap it up in nice cellophane paper and pass it on to the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour.

Mr. BATSON and Mr. COWARD rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually the hon. senior member for St. Thomas caught my eye an infinitesimal fraction of a second before the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, but the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has given way.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I am on my feet to make a few observations on the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals laid by the Hon. Minister of Finance. In doing so, I would like to point out that where it is necessary to compliment the Hon. Minister of Finance, I will do so, and where I find that there are omissions on the part of the Government, I am also prepared to point them out. 4.40 p.m.

The Budget Proposals can be always very aggravating regardless of how mild or how reasonable they may be; but on this occasion, I believe that right-thinking Barbadians will agree that these proposals are reasonable and justifiable to all concerned. I think that we should be happy to learn from the Hon. Minister of Finance how well the Island has recovered from its financial difficulty, and I hope that we may continue to float and not go under. The increased population together with the unemployed will always pose a problem to this Government, or any other Government, and it can be very embarrassing to any Government when these day to day problems cannot be tackled.

On former occasions when Budget Proposals were made, when one passed along one could hear a diversity of opinions: and when increases were made on any item you would always hear one say that it should not be on this item, but on another.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted with satisfaction that there will be no increases on essential commodities: and even if there are increases on non-essential commodities, it would do little or nothing. During last year, the Government has made many advances in acquiring plantations, other lands and many other things, and we were told that the Government would be going in for diversification of adricultural land. We are all waiting to see this planning and the benefits to be derived therefrom.

Sir, I too regret the loss to this Island as a result of the wholesale waste in sugar through fires, and we are all concerned with seeing the necessity of trying to preserve the crop rather than wasting any part thereof.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has intimated his intention to appropriate the balance of $4.6 million towards the public debt. Although the Hon. Premier is an economist and although I further know that the Government is not a money saving body, I would still counsel the Hon. Minister to remember rainy days. We have been fortunate in this Island for sometime to sympathise with our neighbours; but in 1958, we had a little "touch-off" which worked havoc, and I am one who feel that it is better to have an empty Treasury with a happy people rather than to have a

full Treasury and unhappy people. I must say that moderation is an excellent pattern and I hope the Hon. Minister of Finance will see his way to preserve at least $1 million of that surplus.

The question of expenditure over and above receipts will always be, and I hope that we will be able to see the volume of work done on the various projects. The Hon. Minister concerned, however, will have to issue directives to the various Ministries for the strictest supervision and co-operation.

I know that it is the Government's business to seek ways and means for the prosecution of the Island's needs, but there is something which one must register in regret and I am doing so now. As I read in the Hon. Premier's Statement, he hopes that the sum of $1.5 million would come from his proposals along with licence fees from the Hospital funds and greater returns from the Department of Inland Revenue. I know that the Government has done everything possible to make the personnel of the various departments happy, and I am also hoping that those who are in charge will in turn make happy all those who go to them from day to day regardless of their station in life. I think hon. members, Mr. Speaker, would remember that some weeks ago I tabled a question in this House relative to the transport system in this Island, and I am not saying this because the hon. junior member for Christ Church raised the point; but it is regrettable to know that the Hon. Minister of Finance has not mentioned not even one word about the transport of this Island. Mr. Speaker, I must say this; and it is no secret. The public should know it. It is from 1954 that Government had no agreement for operating transport in this Island.
4.50 p.m.

Transport is only operated from a gentleman's agreement. I do know that the Transport Board is in financial difficulties and so it is with the private concessionaires. I have heard the hon. junior member for Christ Church say – I am sorry he is not now in his place – that for a number of years no new buses were brought to this island. I do not know what is the procedure with the Transport Board, but I know that it is not so where the private concessionaires are concerned. Mr. Speaker, whatever one does, it calls for planning; and if we must have an extra special transport service in this island, it cannot be obtained by any day-to-day agreement regardless of who are the operators. This service must be obtained as a result of some long-term planning which should be for a period of at least some five to ten years. I make that point because I can assure hon. members that dealers are not going to open their hands to give credit on any day-to-day agreement. I must point out, Sir, that any enclosed bus which is imported into this island will cost around $25,000 to $32,000; and if a chassis is imported and a body is built on it locally, it will cost between $17,000 and $18,000. Therefore you will see, Mr. Speaker, that from these facts the smallest company operating in this island is operating on a capital of no less than $120,000.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would counsel the hon. member not to go much further into the details of the Transport System. I can well appreciate that the hon. member is making a point which he is entitled to make in a personal way as to a reference which he feels should have been made in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, to providing better transportation. However, I think that the hon. member is only entitled to refer to the absence of any Statement as to the Transport Board, but not to go into any minute details.

Mr. COWARD: I had promised, Sir, that any omissions in this Statement I would bring to the notice of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for Christ Church also referred to this omission, but he did not attempt to go into it in any detail.

Mr. COWARD: Very Well, Sir, I will abide by Your Honour's ruling. The next thing to which I would like to refer is Local Government. Local Government in this island is causing much concern where the taxpayers of this island are concerned. As you will remember, Sir, this Local Government System is not the baby of the present Government. They can deal with the matter because it was brought into force as a result of the Report of Sir John Maude and a subsequent Report from Mr. Lightburn. I can assure you that this Local Government system is not being carried out in accordance with the recommendations made by these two gentlemen.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to remind the hon. member that the Jackson Report on Local Government in Barbados was laid on the Table of this House today, and every hon. member who came out to do the business of the public today should have got a copy of that Report by now.

Mr. COWARD: If you will permit me, Sir, I will go into a little detail where the interest of the public is concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the absence of any reference to Local Government in this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, the hon. member can only speak generally and not go into any detail.

Mr. COWARD: Sir, there are some details, which I would like to go into: but if it is your ruling that I cannot go into details on this matter, I will not do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members can do that when we are dealing with the Jackson Report which, I have no doubt, will be the subject of full-dress debate in this Chamber.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to let the Government know that I am not blind, neither am I deaf. I am sure that hon. members will appreciate that I am not dumb because I am speaking now. Why I make that statement is this: sometime ago you will remember that I received a reply from the Hon. Minister of Education that provision was being made for the building of a school to replace the old St. Elizabeth's School in St. Joseph. The Hon. Minister of Education himself knows that that school was condemned and, as a result of that, a hardship is being wrought both on the pupils and on the teachers. I made a suggestion to the Minister that he should have a wing erected on this school so that these poor children who can only get half a day's instruction would be able to get a full day's instruction.

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather that this is an admonition to the Hon. Minister of Education to make provision for rebuilding this school.

Mr. COWARD: That is the point I wanted to make: and from that, I feel that the Hon. Minister will understand that it is all right to have a system of children going to school half a day for six months or so: but it is now two years since no provision has been made for these choldren to have a whole day's instruction.

We have been waiting and listening to hear about a pasteurisation plant and what would be done for the Private Secondary Schools, having regard to the fact that these children are from the poor classes of the community. I hope that by God's guidance this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals will work according to plan. I hope that when the Hon. Minister of Finance lays before us the next Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals next year, he will come to us with fresh and even more progressive plans.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, it is rather difficult for one to speak on this Financial Statement after hon. members have almost exhausted all the salient points within the Statement; but after listening last Tuesday to the hon. junior member for St. George and today to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I am forced to add my quota. The hon. junior member for St. George in making his speech said that this Financial Statement was lacking in vitality, stability and vision, and I was very much surprised to hear that coming from the lips of the hon. junior member

for St. George, because I think hon. members of this House know the antics of the hon. member. The hon. member suggested that the Government should move out the Agricultural Department and make more school accommodation, and he went so far as to suggest going to Roebuck Street. He also said that they should ask the people at the Girls' Industrial Union to vacate that building and put up a two or three storied building to accommodate about 1,200 children. The hon. member also make a comparison with Queens Royal College in Trinidad. I was very surprised at this because the hon. member was a member of this Chamber for a number of years, and those of us who have only now had the privilege of entering this Chamber would be very shocked to think that after a person has been a member of this House for over twelve years, he could make such a stupid suggestion in comparing a College in Barbados with one in Trinidad, to the extent of suggesting that Queens Royal College now accommodates 1,200 children.

I was even more surprised, Mr. Speaker, when I recall that he was the Minister of Health in the last Government, and feel that he should have outlined these suggestions to his Cabinet and point out that they really need implementing. Since the Democratic Labour Party has taken over the reins of Government, a great transformation has taken place not only with the hon. junior member for St. George, but also with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, because this afternoon we were treated for two hours to a concert, the programme of which consisted of one actor who was also chairman of the concert, and it was rather regrettable when he did bring the last item, because everyone no doubt in this Chamber was really then waiting to see what points he would adduce to criticise the Statement. Surprisingly he sat down and has now taken his exit. This kind of thing, Mr. Speaker, is very deplorable, because if we peruse this document, we will find many proposals which have been made by this Government. We would find, for instance, that this Government proposes to remove the Stamp Duty payable on transfer on Barbados Government debentures; remove the entertainment tax on intercolonial and international cricket matches and similarly on tennis and athletic and cycle sports; remove the radio licence fee; impose certain charges at Seawell International Airport; impose a licence fee of $12,000 on premises where racing services are carried on; refund arrears of contributions paid by Civil Servants to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme; revise the Leave Regulations and terms upon which Leave Passages are now granted, increase the rates of travelling allowances paid to public officers; and reduce the period of implementation of equal pay for female teachers from five years to four years.

All these things, Mr. Speaker, are fundamental issues that any sane responsible member of this Chamber should seriously interpret rather than misinterpret and misinform this House. We find that the 26th June, 1962, was the first time in the history of this Chamber that a Budget Speech was really presented, and that is very creditable to the present Government. We find also that an economic survey was brought before this Chamber, and never before was this done. We find that when this Government took over office on the 19th December, 1961, there were arrears of nearly $3 million, and it is surprising that within three years this Government has been able to completely mesmerize the community to the extent that a great transformation has taken place with regard to the finances of this country. By 31st March this year, there was a surplus of $4.6 million which is very commendable. I feel that any Government which in three years, after taking up the reins of Government, with a deficit, has been able to completely transform the finances of the country, has done a magnificent job, and this speaks very creditably not only for the Minister of Finance, but for the Government as a whole.

If we recapped the number of implementations which have taken place within the last three years, one can rest assured that this Government is a sane Government and not a reckless Government as classified at one time by one of the members of the now defunct Federation.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this Government took office, it was faced with an increase in salaries to the Civil Service of over $2 million. The Deep Water Harbour incurred additional expenditure and the new Hospital was under construction. You will find that a crash programme was implemented immediately after this Government took office to the dismay of a vast majority of people, and several persons who probably never worked with the Government before were employed. That is something for which the Government should be commended. The Constitution River which was referred to this afternoon by the Minister of Health was tackled.

5.10 p.m.

We find that a great number of tenantry roads have been repaired, and many of them have been improved considerably. The widening of streetcorners is another implementation for which this Government must be given credit. We find that the Government in disposing of its finance has embarked on the East Coast Road, and that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is something of which one should feel justly proud.

In this Statement, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Finance hoped that by this time next year the private sector would be able to make a contribution to the finance sector in order to bring about a much more comprehensive report with regard to the Budget Proposals. The world trade has been increased in much measure, and this Government, no doubt, welcomes that because we live in the world, and therefore all those aspects must interest this Government.

The last crop was estimated to be 185,000 tons, but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we find because of the cane fires that there is a great reduction and we see that it will only now probably be 161,400 tons. Because of the bumper crop last year, this Government was able to accrue much finance, and that in some measure was responsible for the surplus which we now enjoy.

We are also told by the Hon. Minister of Finance that the banks in Bridgetown have increased in their business. We are told that there have been much more deposits and much more savings by the people, and that in a large measure has been the cause for a complete transformation with regard to the distribution that has caused these banks in Bridgetown to make that much advancement and improvement.

We also find when we look at the current expenditure that for the year 1960-61 the figure was $22.7 million; in 1961-62, $27.7 million; in 1961-63, $28.4 million and in 1963-64 $29.1 million. Then, when we refer to the revenue side the figures are $26.0 million for the year 1960-61 and for the year 1961-62, $26.2 million and in 1962-63, $28.1 million and then in 1963-64, $33.7 million. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it must be admitted that these various extraordinary increases in the revenue are due to the fortuitious circumstances as described by the Hon. Minister of Finance. However you look at it, the credit must still go in some measure to this present Government. Because one Government happened to be in office and it has been replaced by another, if there is material advancement, the credit must go in that direction, and it is rather unfortunate that the other Government was not in office to receive the benefit. Therefore, it cannot be said that the present Government is blowing its own trumpet.

Sir, we also find that the Capital Expenditure for 1963-64 totalled $9,553,178 as compared with the previous year of $7,930,184. We are told by the Hon. Minister of Finance that out Capital Expenditure was financed in the following way: Loan Funds, $7,939,250; General Revenue Balance, $464,762; C.D. & W. Funds, $158,481; and from Labour Welfare Funds, $989,684. We are also told that we have incurred a public debt of over $40 million and the Minister of Finance proposes to take the surplus realized on the current account for 1963-64 and allocate it to Capital Expenditure in the current year which normally would fall to the financing of loan funds, and that embarkation is to reduce the amount which normally would be required to be raised as loans to strengthen the Island's economy.

We find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Civil Servants have benefitted in large measure from this Statement. We also find that the intercolonial associations and those engaged in athletics have also benefitted; therefore, any person attending cricket matches or athletic meetings can do so now without any fear of having an additional tax imposed on them. No doubt these associations would be able to shoulder their finances more easily as a result of this.

We find that in the not too distant future, we will have television, and provision is also made in this Statement that the fee payable for television receivers would be only $10 per annum. That, to my mind, is not beyond the capacity of the normal individual. There are many people who feel that the implementation of television is a costly affair and should not be embarked upon at the moment; but Mr. Deputy Speaker, where a community is advancing normally, people are equally entitled to enjoy the facilities of life just as other people in democratic countries; so this Government feels that it should embark on television, and I feel that the criticism which is levelled at the Government in this direction is unjustifiable.

There is also a proposal as regards the teaching profession. Some time last year, there was a compromise made with respect to female teachers. Now, that time has been reduced from five years to four years, thus making it less difficult to those who are entitled to qualify.

Another aspect which is very heartening is that the regulations as regards leave for Civil Servants will be revised. I, for one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, feel that the Leave passages which are at present enjoyed by certain personnel in executive offices are too elaborate. I feel that some of those officers can pay their way and I feel that when this idea was first mooted, it was to accommodate those persons who came from overseas and who wanted to return to their country to look after their interest or their families interests. Now, it has become popular for all of the executive officers in the Civil Service to look forward to this annual holiday and it places a financial burden on the Treasury. I am happy to see that a revision is going to take place in order to lessen the strain on the Treasury.

We also see that certain charges would be introduced at the Seawell International Airport.
5.20 p.m.

I often wonder why there is no head tax imposed on the people who visit these shores. This Island cannot seriously boast of being happy as far as our finances are concerned, and this Government in its intention to try to find work for people who are out of employment, would have to explore additional avenues of revenue in order to recoup the financial position. I feel that this imposition at Seawell Airport is a fine one.

The rates of travelling allowances paid to public officers have been increased. Many of these public officers have had to pull their pockets in order to augment the deficiency in finance in their travelling rates. It has been very heartening to see that this Government is so wise as to see that that is done. The allowance on industrial buildings will be increased from 2% to 3%, and all of these measures are measures that will affect every individual and the community at large. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel that as to the number of hon. members sitting around this Table and who have spoken, some of them having added no lustre to the Financial Statement, it was difficult for one to sit here and listen attentively to all the points adduced by them. Although it was amazing, it would have been made extremely difficult for those who want to add their quota to the debate. I know, Sir, that other hon. members are zealous of making their contribution to this debate, and I will therefore give way to them so that they will be able to make their contribution. Sir, I will close by saying this:-

> Man a small creature and unlike small creatures,
> very mischievous and irritating;
> He is ushered into this world by natural forces
> which he does not worry to understand;
> He strives against them and they in turn strive
> against him.
> A mere atom on the scale of creation, yet by untold
> degrees the most dangerous creature on
> earth.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaking on this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, I am not prepared to deal at any length with any particular subject, but merely to give a resume of how I see it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1961 when this Government came into power, we had a deficit of $2 1/2 million. I am very proud this afternoon from this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals to see that the people of Barbados are on the road to prosperity. On page 2 of this Financial Statement you will see that the crop which was estimated at 195,000 tons has been decreased by 33,600 tons by some unforeseen circumstances or some evil enmity against this community and the people of Barbados, which would fight to destroy the livelihood of 250,000 souls in this island. I was privileged in this Chamber to hear from one hon. member that if this Government did not resign then this Island would go up in flames. I only hope that we will not have a repetition of anything like that again. On page 3 of this Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals it has been set out that the island's public debt is now over $40 million. It is gratifying to think that from the advance in the price of sugar and its by-products we were able to preserve $4.6 million. In the wisdom of the Hon. Minister of Finance, he sees it possible to use and to remove that amount of money from our borrowing capacity. In 1954 the former Government accrued reserve funds, but they did not have the foresight to utilise the money in Barbados; they lent it out to foreign countries at a reduced percentage and then when they were about to implement the Deep Water Harbour they had to borrow the money at a greater percentage. However, Sir, this Government, with the Minister of Finance, has seen fit to move down the island's borrowing capacity. If the Premier were borrowing $7 million and the Government has $4 million in reserve, he would utilise that $4 million and therefore he would only have to look for $3 million from the outside market.

You will see, therefore, that the forward march of time is rolling off for the betterment of the people of Barbados. It is not necessary for me to go much further in this matter. You will see from this statement that the Government is pursuing a policy of utilising our surplus balances in order to boost the economy of this country rather than exporting our capital abroad. There still remains a considerable demand for capital and for local investment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this will be my final point. It is up to the people of this island who are prepared to see Barbados as their Barbados and not as any particular individual, to look ahead. We should realise that if Independence is around the corner we should have some kind of pride within ourselves to see ourselves as West Indians or as Barbadians. Therefore, I will appeal to one and all who have a certain surplus of finance, that instead of hoarding it up they should buy Government bonds and so invest their money whereby the labour force of this island will benefit to a greater degree than before. That will help to boost the economy of Barbados.
5.30 p.m.

With those few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I compliment the Minister of Finance for placing before us such an able and efficient Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the 26th June, 1962, the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance made a Statement on the floor of this House. He said that this Island was faced with a deficit of $2,350,000 and now, Sir, he has given us a Statement this year and he has actually made $4.6 million. This proves very good management, and I as a member of the Government, must commend the Minister of Finance and members of his Cabinet for the efficient manner in which they have carried this island through for the year 1963.

Now, Sir, in this Statement, it has also been mentioned that the island's finances have now recovered from the serious position in which they were 2 1/2 years ago. This

is a Statement of which every Barbadian must be proud, as we are happy to know that the island is in a better position than it was a few years ago. The Statement continues to say that the transformation is as much due to the strict control of current expenditure as to the extraordinarily large increase of revenue which resulted from the general economic improvement and collections in respect of previous years. From the figures mentioned in the Statement, it will be seen that in 1960-61, the revenue was $26.0 million while in 1963-64 it was $33.7 million. You can see from that that the good work which the Government has been doing, and I am happy to be a member of this Government at this particular period.

The Statement further states, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the 1964 crop which had been estimated at 195,000 tons was 33,600 tons less, and was only 161,400 tons. We regret very much that the cane fires contributed to a smaller tonnage, and we do hope that in future the people of this island who are responsible for these cane fires, will see that it does not make sense to destroy the crop. In destroying the crop, they are doing an injustice to the working-class people of this Island, and it is those people who by their sweat contribute to the economy of this Island. Without the agricultural workers, there would be no work for Civil Servants, no work for doctors and no work for lawyers. Therefore, it is our duty to do our utmost for the working-class people of this Island.

It is stated here that every month from January to May this year deposits made in the Government Savings Bank have exceeded $700,000. This points to the suggestion I made that the people of the Island are satisfied with the management of the present Government, and consequently they have decided to put their money in the Government Savings Bank. This proves beyond the shadow of a doubt the confidence which the inhabitants of this country have in this Government.

Now, Sir, with respect to the new Hospital, the Premier says that that is a building of which all Barbadians can be proud, but we have not yet met the full capital cost.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To what page is the hon. member referring?

Mr. WEEKES: This is on page 5. It goes on to say: "We expect, however, to obtain a further grant from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds." All Barbadians are proud of this new Hospital. It cost us a big sum of money, but it is a necessity.
5.40 p.m

It is something which we are happy about; it is something to relieve the sick and we shall all be happy in our minds about the amount of money which was spent on this Hospital for the benefit of the people of this Island.

Now, it is proposed that Civil Servants should be refunded half of the contribution which they have made to the Widows and Orphans Fund. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you know, the Hon. Minister of Finance has proposed not to save the sum of $4.6 million, but he has decided that something should be done as regards this sum. I am happy to know that he has found it possible to refund two per cent of the amount which these Civil Servants have contributed to the Widows and Orphans Fund. I can assure him that they will be very pleased and satisfied in their minds concerning this statement.

"Now, Sir, as a result of further representation by the teachers, I propose that a final concession should be made in regard to the equalisation of the salaries of women with those of men."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member reading from the Financial Statement?

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Sir. I am reading from page five.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is better to let hon. members know that you are going to quote so as to make it known that it is not your own speech.

Mr. WEEKES: I thank you, Sir. There is this paragraph in the Premier's statement:

"As a result of further representations by the teachers, I propose that a final concession should be made in regard to the equalisation of the salaries of women with those of men. Equalisation in such cases is, of course, always expected to be upward. The House will recollect that, under the present arrangements, equalisation is to be achieved in five years which began on 1st April, 1964."

Now, Sir, we are very happy in mind to know that female teachers of this Island will be brought on a par in salaries with that of male teachers. I feel that they do similar work; therefore, they should receive similar remuneration for their services. I commend the Government on this change which they are bringing about.

Now, Sir, on page six, it is stated:

"The Inland Revenue Department is now vigorously collecting arrears: 217 cases have been lodged by the Department. The pressure will be intensified."

No Government can function without money and it is known throughout the world that a Government must tax people; therefore, if anyone is disgruntled or dissatisfied because he has to pay his taxes, he is making a mistake and he would not be contributing to the progress of this Island. Every man should bear his part of the burden so as to improve the economy of this Island.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say how satified in mind I am with the results and policy of the Ministers of this Government. As a backbencher, I would like to associate myself with all the members who have commended the Government on their achievements. It is a fact, Sir, that our detractors, the Opposition, will criticise us; but from what I have heard, I have come to the conclusion that they have not got one point to hold on to. They would have to speak so as to tell the public something, and they have tried to criticise this Government; but I am sure that they failed miserably.

It is my opinion, that this Government has done a very good job, and I am happy in mind to know that I am a member of the Government in power. I do hope, Sir, that the people in this Island will realise that this Government has done its utmost for them and they in turn should be satisfied in mind with the results of this Government. I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must rise after a long debate to compliment the Hon. Premier for his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. A lot has been said over these Budgetary Proposals, but I want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if hon. members on the other side would lift up their eyes towards the hills and see what drive this Government has made, they would give thanks. They would see that we have tried to do the things which are good.
5.50 p.m.

We have been through the whole island and we have tried to do the things which should be done. I do not see why this Government or the Hon. Minister of Finance should be criticised by any hon. member of this House for the drive which he is making today. When I think of what has taken place in this little island of Barbados a few months ago, that is, after the Great God had sent his rain and caused a great blessing on the earth and had given a great increase there was a great malicious sacrifice made throughout the country. You could see the burning of the cane crop as far as you could go, and that was to hamper the prospects of this Government. There was the crop of which 33,600 tons of sugar were sacrificed by malicious hands. We had 33,600 tons of sugar less as against what would have been 195,000 tons and we would know what 195,000 tons of sugar would mean to this island. That would have helped us in our economy; it also would have helped us with the financial development of this island and of every human being, whether he be great or small.

Although we have made this sacrifice, I must congratulate the Hon. Premier in that he has not imposed any taxation on the people of this island, I must congratulate him for his goodness, and I hope that God will enlighten his understanding and kindle his affection to do better than what he has done today. When I listen to hon. members who are trying to multiply words and who are only trying to criticise this Government I say that if the members of this Assembly and the people of this island were to take things into consideration and see the stage which the country has reached and the development which has taken place – the schools which have been erected, the water mains which have been laid in the island and the housing conditions which have been improved – all around they will see the goodness which this Government has done and which it is still doing. Plenty of work has been done and plenty more work is under consideration for the help of this country. When people criticise this Government, I must say that they are hating this Government without a cause. It is not for the good work which the Government has done, but people are hating them without a cause.

I remember that the Good Master was brought before Pilate's Judgment Hall. He asked: "What have I done?" He said: "For my good works they have hated me because they have not seen such good works performed on earth." Well, Sir, I have never seen such good work going on as what I have seen going on now. Thousands of people will agree with me that they have never seen such good works; people just chose to hate this Government without a cause.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I should like to ask him to stick a little more closely to the Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN: Very well, Sir, we have a lot of work under consideration and I know that the Hon. Minister of Works will do much more for this island and the people will congratulate the Government for the good work which they have done for this country.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, after reading the Premier's Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals I never thought that this debate would have gone on as long as it has gone on, because in this Statement I do not see anything to be criticised. After hearing one or two speeches which were made by some hon. members, I thought it my duty very briefly to say one or two things in connection with this Statement. In doing so, I will quote from page 1 of this Statement. This is what the Hon. Premier said:-

"The Island's finances have now recovered from the serious position in which they were two and a half years ago. Then there was a large gap between current revenue and current expenditure, and there was a prospect of the situation worsening. The transformation is as much due to the strict control of current expenditure as to the extraordinarily large increase of revenue which resulted from the general economic improvement and collections in respect of previous years....."

I think that most of us will realise the position in which this Island was for two and one half years, and I feel sure that the country is complimenting the Hon. Premier for the able stand which he took two and one half years ago against the howl and cries all over the country by the Opposition. If it had not been for the Premier, strong as he is, standing up against that type of howl about over taxation, this Government and the country could not have found itself in the position in which it now finds itself. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sat here today and listened to two hours of exhibition by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and at one time.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would suggest to the hon. member that he should change the word "exhibition".

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I could hardly use a different word. If you were here you would agree with me that there was a perfect exhibition which we have had by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. Nevertheless, Sir, the hon. member referred to my mentioning the size of his head.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should like to remind the hon. member that I was not here and I am not entertaining any personalities.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that was brought to my notice today and I only referred to it in passing. When we refer to the progress made by the Banks for the past year, you will agree with me that the average man has prospered. If the average man had not prospered, then the Banks could not have made such steady progress.
6.00 p.m.

We should compliment the Government for the steady progress which the average man has made. The criticisms which were made when taxes were placed on the people of this country now appear to be unwarranted, and I am sure that this Financial Statement has caused some of the Opposition members to be so confused, that they had absolutely nothing to say.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair.

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that this Statement which is before us today has made the Opposition responsible for the confusion that some hon. members have found themselves in, because they thought they would have had something to say on the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals. They could find no criticism, and had to resort to something completely out of the Budgetary Proposals. If one listened carefully to the speech of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, one would have realised that the only thing that made sense in his speech was the parts he read from the Financial Statement, and he read paragraph after paragraph so as to make up what he had to say.

If you turn to page 4, Mr. Speaker, you will find that the Premier said these words: "For some time I have been concerned with the lack of control on what are known as racing service businesses." They operate in what is known as the field of fixed odds betting on horse races, and therefore he has decided to tax business places $12,000 a year. I think that all of us should compliment the Premier for finding every avenue where revenue can be raised in this island, and as far as I have heard, all the business places which indulge in this sort of business intend to keep on because they realise that their business can pay. We should therefore compliment the Hon. Premier for looking for every avenue where revenue can be found to avoid taxing the essential commodities, which would be felt by the small man.

We find on page 5, Mr. Speaker, what in our opinion was a general complaint by the teachers, and we see that the has also very carefully considered their point of view. He said that "as a result of further representation by the teachers, I propose that a final concession should be made in regard to the equalisation of the salaries of women with those of men." I am hoping, Sir, that that consideration will very soon be put into effect, and that the teachers sooner or later will have no grouse.

My last point, Mr. Speaker, is on page 7 where the Premier has noticed that there has been during the year a spectacular growth in the number of supermarkets which must inevitably lead to the liquidation of the small retail shopkeeper. He went on to say that if this class of small businessman is to survive, he will have to learn quickly the benefits of co-operative enterprise. I know, Mr. Speaker that that is an established fact. The big businessmen in this island have for a long time been co-operating with each other, but I find it very difficult to get the small shopkeepers to come together. I have in my small way been trying to get shopkeepers to form a co-operative organisation, but without any success. I am very proud to hear the Hon. Premier stress it in these Budgetary Proposals, because I am sure that if they must survive, they are bound to co-operate. It is true that while most of us are happy to see that the supermarkets are thriving, we are also very concerned about the small retail shopkeeper.

Outside of this country, Mr. Speaker, we find that co-operative societies have been spreading rapidly, and in

my opinion, it is the lack of confidence that small businessmen in this area have in each other which prevents them from co-operating. I learnt that a shopkeeper's association was started quite recently, and when I thought that it meant small retail shopkeepers only, I came to realise that there were commission merchants and big businessmen in that same association, and rather than wanting to co-operate for the benefit of pulling themselves together as one unit, I discovered that it was their desire to control prices.

6.10 p.m.

If that is the opinion of the small shopkeepers in this Island, then I am afraid that the decision of this paragraph would have to be put in action as soon as possible, and it is that they would have to learn quickly the benefits of a Co-operative Society; otherwise, they must go into liquidation. I very strongly compliment the Hon. Premier for the entire Statement of his and I hope that in future years we will always be able to prepare a Budget Statement which will confuse some of the members of the Opposition in having to make any speech at all.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, fortunately, or unfortunately, since this matter under discussion has not been completely dealt with and I have been informed that there is a shortage of some of the necessary equipment for recording of this Budget Speech, therefore, obviously, I propose to terminate this meeting now and return next Tuesday to this debate after the expiration of Government Business. It may well be that a lot of members who have not yet spoken on this matter may want to do so then.

Sir, I therefore, beg to move that this House do now adjourn until next Tuesday, 21st July, 1964, at 12.00 o'clock (noon).

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.15 p.m.